## Super!Sonic joins Korean music festival roster

Smashing Pumpkins, Tears for Fears, New Order, Foster the People, Gotye

Groove is the No. 1 magazine for expats in Korea. Find out what's new, what's news and what there is to do.

# GROOVE

*The travel issue*

KOREA
Issue 70 / August 2012

# KOREAN RAIL ADVENTURES

7 train tales and 25 places you must see in Korea



## Train fare: The Metro Market

Find food from around the country without ever leaving the station

## Seeing Seoul through street art

Murals offer a glimpse into Korea's social and cultural ills

## K-pop can help you learn Korean

Music can be a great motivator when it comes to learning a language


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THE 9TH

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# Travel is discovery:
## Korea by train

Fly and miss everything; take the bullet train and miss a lot. If seeing a country and meeting its people is what you have in mind this summer, there is no better way to do it than on the rails. Korea's network of train lines is extensive and cheap, so do yourself a favor and skip the tour bus.

Travel is about discovery. Go slow and meet more people, see more sights, smell and taste more foods. Between the super-fast KTX and the steady-as-she-goes Mugunghwa, I prefer the latter. This is how our Destinations editor Josh Foreman paints this train from another era: The Mugunghwa, or the Rose, is how people got around Korea before the KTX came along in 2004. When you compare the two side by side, the Mugunghwa has more dents than the KTX, more rusty spots. Its orange and red color scheme seems dated. "Mugung" means eternity in Korean, and true, sometimes a trip on the Mugunghwa can seem to go on forever.

But there are tricks to riding the Rose. If you can unlock its potential, a trip on the Mugunghwa is more rewarding than a short, quiet ride on the KTX — the windows on the Mugunghwa are much bigger and the dining car of the train is its heart.

Get off the beaten path and board a train on the Gyeongjeon Line that straddles the southern coast between Miryang and Gwangju. Most people, Koreans included, don't know this train exists. In fact, you won't find it on most Korail maps.

Chris Backe writes that the slow-moving Mugunghwa is a great place to meet people — like-minded travellers and Koreans. Train travel, he says, implies a common purpose, or at least the start of plenty of conversations. Read more on his adventure and the Gyeongjeon Line on page 36.

With the amount of time it takes to get from Point A to Point B on the Muhunghwa, you'll probably learn something about yourself and the country you're visiting. That's what happened to a couple of our writers.

Jenny Na took the Gyeongbu Line to her orphanage in search of information on her adoption. She came to the realization that a previous trip to that orphanage with her adoptive mother years earlier, which she had been loath to take, was one she needed the most. Read more on her personal journey and the Gyeongbu Line (Seoul-Busan) on page 38.

Romin Lee Johnson took the Gyeongchun Line bound for Chuncheon to get to a weeklong meditation retreat. It turned out that the journey was all he needed. Romin felt a sense of clarity for the first time since a mental breakdown a month before his son was born six months prior. Read more on his moment of rejuvenation and the Gyeongchun Line (Seoul-Chuncheon) on page 40.

Finally, foodies will find delight in the Metro Market, or Jangteo Yeolcha. Hop on board at Cheongdam Station in Seoul to sample Korea's regional delicacies. This train won't leave the station, but Ryan Noel writes that this is a great place to get your hands on fresh produce from around the country, even gifts for the upcoming Chuseok holiday. Read his story on page 48.

Instead of taking a lame tour bus to where you want to go this August and September, take your time on the train. You might just discover something about Korea — and yourself.


**A note by**
**Matthew Lamers**

Editor-in-chief
mattlamers@groovekorea.com


**Hot on:**
www.groovekorea.com

Insight: **Korea's dying markets**

The rising tide of Korea's economy hasn't lifted all boats. Markets, where most Koreans shopped a generation ago, now struggle to make ends meat. There are a lot of factors: Korea's excellent infrastructure makes more of a city accessible, and economies of scale make large discount stores cheaper than traditional markets. The government has implemented measures over the years in support of markets, with the most recent being a decree to shut large discount stores twice a month. That law has been overturned in some districts in Seoul.

Choi Tae-Ja, a 56-year-old wholesaler at a traditional market, credits the subway for whisking away most of her customers. "Before the subway came through here, many people visited the market here. But since that time, the number of people has been getting smaller and smaller."

By Dylan Goldby
Read it online in August or
in print in September

Food & Drink: **La Crème de Korea**

When your moment of urgency constitutes a craving for something cool and delicious, Korea's got you covered. The ice cream selection's ample, and the prevalence of GS 25s, 7-Elevens and Family Marts keeps satisfaction always within a stone's throw away. Korea has taken the individual ice cream experience and kicked it up. Unsuspectingly, subtle touches are added to distinguish many of the available treats. The standard vanilla World Cone features chocolate-covered peanuts. The "Jaws" fruit bar has a stealthy shark design, and I've even encountered a frozen ear of corn.

What are the best, and worst, offerings in your local supa's freezer? Groove Korea hatched a plan to tap into the masses. We inquired over the internet and in person to find where your loyalties lie. The lines have been drawn and interestingly, there is a clear distinction in opinion between Koreans and expats.

By Lisa Pollack
Read it online in August or
in print in September

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***Column:* K-pop Korean**
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A desire to understand the lyrics of Korean music can be a great motivator when you actually sit down to study the langauge.

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# Must Reads

### Korean rail adventures

Page 32

Foreigners often shun Korea's trains only to sit in traffic for hours on end in buses that lack character (and bathrooms). Groove Korea has put together an extensive package of some of the most interesting train journeys in the country. Slow down and take a train.



### Seeing Korea through street art

Page 18

There is a lively and innovative cultural scene in Seoul that is involved in street art. Some of the murals we feature are modern societal testimonies. They are, albeit with a quiet tone, political statements, pointed observations of recent social circumstances or even expressions of an attitude to life.




### The urban scavenger hunt

Page 72

Support a great cause and have a blast doing it. If you can't get on one of the teams, then join us at the after party. Proceeds go to the Hillcrest AIDS Center in the KwaZulu-Natal province of South Africa. This is a Groove Korea-sponsored event.



### Greatest concert of the summer?

Page 56

Circle Aug. 14 and 15 on the calendar. With acts like The Smashing Pumpkins, Tears for Fears, New Order, Foster the People and Gotye, Super!Sonic might turn out to be the biggest surprise of your summer. And it's just a short subway ride away.



### K-pop helps you learn Korean

Page 30

Tired of studying with books all the time and not sure whether what you are learning right now will be useful in your everyday life? How about listening to a nice song in Korean and humming along? Having a natural desire to know something that you don't know now is one of the best motivations you can have in learning.




### Consequences of getting fat

Page 76

Korea is an easy place to throw caution to the wind when it comes to too much to eat and drink. Lots of new friends and places to explore and maybe pressure to have soju with the boss: It can all lead to unhealthy choices. But what are the actual consequences of a few extra pounds?



# The Inbox

What's on your mind? Share your thoughts on a Groove article: Did you love it? Did it suck? Are you planning a charity concert and want to spread the word? Let us know on our Facebook or Twitter page and we'll print it here. This is your page — get your message out!

Facebook it; tweet it; e-mail it to submissions@groovekorea.com

## Website

**Re: July's cover — The truth about relationships with foreigners**
Your cover was a wonderful addition to the discourse in Korea regarding race and media. What a lot of people do not realize is that by staying positive, it leaves the door open to more Koreans rallying to our side. Those who go negative run the risk of alienating potential allies in the Korean community.
— **Marsha (surname withheld on writer's request)**

**Re: Dance, mingle, be gay**
What a wonderfully inclusive event. This will help to bring down the barriers between the straight and queer communities! I hadn't head about these "meet markets" before. See you there!
— **Josh Turmnal**

**Re: Korea's multicultural disconnect**
An intelligent, interesting article. Thank you! I may have high expectations (and without going into the subject in depth) but until a child, on seeing me, doesn't refer to me as 'American' then I see that Korean society's sense of multiculturalism is fairly low. This may simply be an issue of historical familiarity, perhaps, but is still not an excuse against individual personal development.
— **Andrew O'Donnell**

**Re: The menace of foreign peril media**
Overall, I agree but I think you also need to call into question the "behavior featured in these broadcasts." You are cautioning people not to have ugly behavior, but the only real thing that is featured are hidden camera interviews and recording people without their permission who for all intents and purposes could very well be husband and wife. And even if they're not, "skinship" or physical intimacy is not an ugly behavior. It is misunderstood at best as something sexual and at worst as something lecherous. I don't think foreigners should be held accountable for holding hands or hugging with their girlfriends and wives in public.
— **Keith**

**Re: The menace of foreign peril media**
Koreans have to see the value in changing themselves. You make some very good points about where the Korean culture's roots come from, and I agree with your article. But it is their country after all and foreigners probably won't be able to convince them directly. Perhaps a Korean language version of the article just might get the ball rolling.
— **Ben Piscopo**

## Facebook

**Re: The sensational story of Lilly Lee**
What an inspiring story! May God continue to bless her and her family. It's refreshing to see a successful woman that is so proud of her heritage!
— **Olga Tulei**

**Lokomotiiv Goyang**
Lokomotiiv Goyang is hosting the 7th annual Lokomotiv summer 5s. It's a five-a-side tournament open to players of all levels. If you are interested in having a team involved please check out our page (www.facebook.com/lokomotiv.goyang)



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Issue Date: Aug. 1, 2012
Registration Date: January 25, 2008
Registration No.: Seoul Ra 11806

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Groove Korea Magazine 2012

# Connecting Communities

Introducing some of the editors, writers and photographers behind August's issue.



### Dirk Schlottmann
Germany

Born in in Mainz, Germany, Dirk is an ethnologist, photographer and teacher. He has been a guest professor in the German Department at the Korea National University of Education in Cheongju since September 2010. He loves taking on projects in his travels to learn more about the surprising and subtle similarities between cultures. Dr. Schlottmann contributed "Seeing Korea through its street art" to August's issue.

### Alex Sutcliffe
England



Alex, a resident of Daejeon, spent his teenage years uncovering the farthest flung recesses of experimental music. He co-runs LURKERSPATH, a webzine that discusses all aspects of the extreme and avant-garde side of music. Born and raised in Manchester, England, he studied philosophy at the University of Birmingham. Alex contributed "The state of post-rock in Korea" to August's issue.



### Adela Ordoñez
Honduras

A freelance Illustrator from Honduras, Central America, Adela is studying advertising design in Costa Rica. She is passionate about illustration, travel and music. Her international globetrotting has rubbed off on her work. Adela contributes illustrations to Groove Korea's monthly columns. This month she contributed art for the fitness, finance and language columns.

### Paloma Julian
Spain



Paloma is a coach, teacher and an ambassador of Spanish food. Every month, she enlightens readers on some new facet of Spanish cooking. She can whip up tortillas with eggs and potatoes, but she'll also have chorizo, Manchego and wine on hand. When not cooking, she's coaching high school girls' basketball, teaching Spanish or listening to scary podcasts. Paloma contributes the monthly Squid Ink recipe column.



### Jenny Na
USA

Jenny is a Korean adoptee with an interest in human rights and social justice issues. Outside of that, she's in the kitchen making blended beverages, in the yoga studio, at the pool, or at the computer, planning her next trip to oceans near and far. Jenny is our Community Editor.

**On the cover:**

# Korea by train

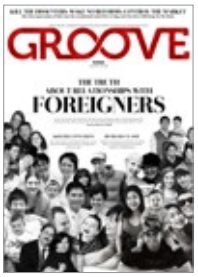
If seeing a country and meeting its people is what you have in mind this summer, there is no better way to do it than on the rails. Find out how to take the train on the cover on page 32.

See the full story on Page 32




**Cover photo by** Jeon Seok-won / Courtesy the Korean Tourism Organization

**Our past three issues:**




**July 2012**
Multiculturalism, Jisan Rock Festival, North Korean defectors




**June 2012**
Krys Lee, The sensational story of Lilly Lee, Brian Aylward's comeback




**May 2012**
SuperColorSuper, Yeosu Expo 2012, In the shadow of Gangnam

Check out past issues at
www.groovekorea.com

# THIS MONTH's EVENTS

AUGUST 1 - AUGUST 31

### 1 - Wednesday

Festival: Taebaek Sunflower Festival @ Alpine Botanical Garden, Taebaek City; to Aug. 19; tour.taebaek.go.kr



Festival: Pohang Fireworks Festival @ Pohang, North Gyeongsang Province; to Aug. 5; festival.ipohang.org

### 2 - Thursday

Music: Galneryus, Cuba @ Rolling Hall, Seoul; 7 pm; www.rollinghall.co.kr/main/index.php

Festival: Busan International Magic Festival @ Haeundae Beach; Aug. 2-5; www.hibimf.org

Beer: Beer buffet @ 200 Bran Hauns; 9,900 won; Mon, Thurs, Sun at 5 pm; (02) 3481-9062

### 3 - Friday

Music: Ultra Music Festival @ Olympic Stadium Seoul; Steve Aoki, Tiësto, Carl Cox; Aug. 3-4; www.umfkorea.com

Korean: Deadline for Korean class registration @ Direct English Kangnam; 02-538-4020; jungjaha@hotmail.com

Tour: Yeosu Expo and Namdo Green Tea Tour with When in Korea (WinK); 1030 pm depart; look 'em up on Facebook

### 4 - Saturday

Volunteer: Help out at Angel House in Goyang, Gyeonggi Province; 1:30 pm; kikihero@gmail.com

Music: Ultra Music Festival @ Olympic Stadium Seoul; Steve Aoki, Tiësto, Carl Cox; Aug. 3-4; www.umfkorea.com

Music: Human Race, Toxic, Burntout House @ AX-Korea; 7 pm; http://ax-korea.co.kr/

### 5 - Sunday

Religion: Intro to Buddhism & informal talk in English @ International Seon Center; 1 pm; www.seon-center.or.kr

Tour: Excursion: Woraksan National Park, Gosu Cave & Chungju Lake Boat Cruise with RASK; 8 am; http://raskb.com

Festival: Sweet Fish Festival @ Bonghwa-gun, North Gyeongsang Province; to Aug. 5; bonghwafestival.com

### 6 - Monday

Social: Open mic @ Tony's in Itaweon (Mondays); tonysitaewon.com

Festival: Gwangyang World Art Circus Festival; to Aug. 12; @ Gwangyang, South Jeolla Province




### 7 - Tuesday

Culture: Gyeonggi Museum of Modern Art tour; 10 am; sign up at siwapage.com; members 5,000 won

Beer: 15,000 won all-you-can-drink beer @ Beer Garden, Renaissance Hotel (every day, 6-9 p.m.); (02) 2222-8630

### 8 - Wednesday

Festival: Great Mountains Music Festival & School in Dagwallyeong, Gangwon Province; to Aug. 11; www.gmmfs.com



Lotte Giants vs. LG twins @ Jamsil Stadium; 6:30 pm

Doosan Bears vs. Hanwha Eagles @ Daejeon Stadium; 6:30 pm

### 9 - Thursday

Festival: Yeosu World Expo in South Jeolla Province; last day is Aug. 12; http://eng.expo

Music: World Electronica Carnival @ Jaraseom Island in Gapyeong, Gyeonggi; Day 1; http://worldelectronicacarnival.com

### 10 - Friday

Music: Incheon Pentaport Rock Festival @ Incheon; up to 165,000 won; Day 1; www.pentaportrock.com

Theater: Play in a Day @ White Box Theatre; 9 am; create new plays in less than 12 hours; www.probationary-theatre.com

### 11 - Saturday

Network; TEDxItaewon2012 Conference @ Auditorium, Coex; 9:30 am; 3 Sessions, 14 speakers/performers

### 12 - Sunday

Music: World Electronica Carnival @ Jaraseom Island in Gapyeong, Gyeonggi; last day; worldelectronicacarnival.com

Music: Incheon Pentaport Rock Festival @ Incheon; up to 165,000 won; Day 3; www.pentaportrock.com

### 13 - Monday

Food: Wing night @ Craftworks in Noksapyeong (Mondays); http://craftworkstaphouse.com

Korean: Korean Language School at KOTRA's free Korean class Sept. 3-Oct. 18; registration Aug. 13-24; www.kotra.or.kr

### 14 - Tuesday

Music: Super!Sonic @ Olympic Park; Smashing Pumpkins, Gym Class Heroes, Idiotape; 2 pm; www.supersonickorea.com

Food: 2 For 1 fish & chips @ Wolfhound (Tuesdays); wolfhoundpub.com

### 15 Wednesday

Social: Quiz night @ Craftworks in Noksapyeong (Wednesdays); http://craftworkstaphouse.com

Music: Super!Sonic Festival @ Olympic Park; New Order, Tears for Fears, Foster the People; 2 pm; www.supersonickorea.com

### 16 - Thursday

Social: Quiz night @ 3 Alley Pub in Itaewon; win beer; 3alleypub.com

Korean: Language exchange: Community Korea event @ Hanla Classic, 6F; 6 pm; http://www.communitykorea.com

### 17 - Friday

Beer: 15,000 won all-you-can-drink @ Beer Garden, Renaissance Hotel, Gangnam (every day, 6-9 p.m.); (02) 2222-8630

Food: Ongoing: Fish Market Tour, Vegan Taste Tour, Night Dining Tour; ongofood.com



For suggestions or comments email Matthew Lamers: mattlamers@groovekorea.com

*All the events published in this calendar are subject to unforeseen changes by the promoters. Groove Korea does not take responsibility for any missunderstandings or third party damage.

| 18 - Saturday | 19 - Sunday | 20 - Monday | 21 - Tuesday | 22 Wednesday | 23 - Thursday | 24 - Friday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Music: Yellow Monsters @ Rock House in Busan; 7 pm | Music: Eminem @ Jamsil Sports Complex; 8 pm; up to 130,000 won | Social: Open mic @ Tony's in Itaweon (Mondays); tonysitaewon.com | Food: Wing night @ 3 Alley Pub in Itaewon; 3alleypub.com | Social: Quiz night @ Craftworks in Noksapyeong (Wednesdays); http://craftworkstaphouse.com | Social: Open mic @ Orange Tree in HBC (Thursdays); (02) 749-8202 | Samsung Lions vs. LG twins @ Jamsil Stadium; 6:30 pm |
| Music: Lala Sweet @ Sangsang Madang in Hongdae; 6 pm; www.sangsangmadang.com | Festival: Taebaek Sunflower Festival @ Taebaek City, Gangwon; last day; tour.taebaek.go.kr | Info: Open registration to volunteer through Itaewon Global Village Center; global.seoul.go.kr/itaewon | Language exchange: Community Korea event @ Hanla Classic, 6th floor; 6 pm; http://www.communitykorea.com | Music: Jamiroquai @ Jamsil Indoor Gymnasium; 8 pm; up to 132,000 won | Beer: Men's night @ Craftworks in Noksapyeong (Thursdays); http://craftworkstaphouse.com | SK Wyvernsn vs. Nexen Heroes @ Mokdong Stadium; 6:30 pm |
| Fitness: BAFIK Bootcamp @ Namsan Park; 7:30 pm; www.bafikbootcamps.com | Theater: Shorts Show @ White Box Theatre; 4 pm; open-stage for performing artists; www.probationarytheatre.com |   | | | | |

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| 25 - Saturday | 26 - Sunday | 27 - Monday | 28 - Tuesday | 29 Wednesday | 30 - Thursday | 31 - Friday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Film: Future Shorts Film Festival @ Platoon Seoul; 5:30 pm; 7 of the world's best short films; www.future-shorts.com | Health: Learn Shaolin Cosmos Chi Kung @ Korean Buddhism Promotion Foundation; Aug. 25-26; seanolaoi@gmail | Fitness: Rock Climbing School @ Bukhansan; Aug. 25-Sept. 23; sanirang.info@gmail.com | Food: Pasta night @ Craftworks in Noksapyeong (Tuesdays); http://craftworkstaphouse.com | Food: Cheese steak sandwich night @ Hollywood Grill in Itaewon; (02) 749-1659 | Social: Open mic @ Orange Tree in HBC (Thursdays); (02) 749-8202 | Mingle Night at Grand Ambassador @ Gran*A Bar; SIWA members (only women) 11,000 won, men 22,000 |
| Community: Little Travellers Photo Scavenger Hunt @ City Hall Subway Station, Exit 5; 1:30 pm; korea@littletravellers.net | Self-help: AA meeting @ the International Lutheran Church; 5 p.m. | Social: Open mic @ Tony's in Itaweon (Mondays); tonysitaewon.com | Musical: A Tale of Two Cities opens and runs to Oct. 7; Chungmu Art Hall Grand Theater; http://ticket.interpark.com/ | Social: Standup comedy (Wednesdays) @ Tony's in Itaewon; tonysitaewon.com | LG twins vs. Doosan Bears @ Jamsil Stadium; 6:30 pm | Hanwha Eagles vs. Doosan Bears @ Jamsil Stadium; 6:30 pm |
| Music: Inner Trip Festival in Chuncheon; 11 am; Day 1; www.innertrip.woobi.co.kr | |  | | | | |
| SK Wyvernsn vs. Nexen Heroes @ Mokdong Stadium; 5 pm | | | | | | |

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# KOREA BEAT

## National News

### Seoul considers ban on drinking in public parks

The Seoul Metropolitan Government plans to ban drinking in the city's 2,600 public parks to cut down on the number of incidents in which citizens become excessively drunk and violent.

The police recently formed a team solely tasked with responding to alcohol-fueled incidents of violence, and it had arrested more than 100 intoxicated assailants as of July and is continuing to increase its enforcement efforts.

Choi Gwang-bin, the city's public parks commissioner, announced in early July that "the freedom of citizens to drink in public parks is no longer considered advisable and so we plan to advise the government to amend the law." Current law contains regulations banning smoking in public parks, but has no prohibition on drinking.

"We plan to prohibit drinking in public in Seoul as a leading example."

"In the United States and other advanced nations, drinking in public places is strictly prohibited," said Choi. "We plan to prohibit drinking in public in Seoul as a leading example." A city spokesperson cited New York State as a benchmark, where it is illegal to openly carry alcohol in public places, including in public parks and on streets. He also cited Canada as an example. In most provinces, it is a violation to carry an open container of alcohol in a public place. "We believe it is necessary to prohibit drinking in public parks, which are often places for family outings," said an official with the Ministry of Land, Transport, and Maritime Affairs.

In Seoul this year, smoking has been prohibited in public parks, which are now autonomous areas by ordinance. Fines range from 50,000 to 100,000 won. Twenty-five such smoke-free areas have been designated and 23 have already seen enforcement efforts.

Enforcement will begin in Seodaemun-gu and Jongro-gu in September and January, respectively.

### Desperate for cash, North Korean defectors seek loansharks

Authorities believe loansharking played a part in the death of a 26-year old North Korean defector-ballet dancer-prostitute when she fell to her death from her fifth floor apartment in the Seocho-dong area of Seoul.

The woman, known only as Ms. Yu, may have sought a large sum of money in order to get her aunt and younger sibling, in North Korea and China, respectively, to South Korea.

Recently there has been an increase in the number of cases of North Korean refugees borrowing large amounts of money from loansharks in order to bring family members to South Korea. Some North Korean women take jobs in prostitution-related businesses, because those jobs pay higher wages than jobs North Korean defectors have access to in the South. One report pegged the amount of money it takes to get one person from North Korea to South Korea at 10 million won. Ms. Yu borrowed a large amount of money for her family and went into the prostitution industry, then died after being harassed by the loanshark, according to long-time friend Ms. Jang.

It takes 10 million won to get one person from North Korea to South Korea.

Jang says that her friend of over a decade was not the type of person to commit suicide. Yu failed in her first attempt to flee North Korea, but succeeded on a second attempt, crossing into China and arriving in South Korea in 2003 at the age of 17.

A loan shark had hounded Yu, Jang claims. "He wore a black suit with no tie and looked like a gangster. He loaned her money... he came by twice when I was there — at night. Yu was washing dishes, so I opened the door. He was there. As soon as she saw him he ordered her outside and she sighed," said Jang. The police, who had initially judged her death to be suicide, are now investigating, suspecting foul play.

## IN BRIEF

### Man admits to molesting 1st grader, court sends him home

The Seoul High Court has overturned the 36-month prison sentence of 47-year old Mr. Song, who was convicted of molesting a female student.

Mr. Song admitted to molesting the girl, a 1st-grader, 12 times when he was working as an at-home math tutor last year.

He will instead serve four years of probation.

He will also be subject to three years of sex offender registration and 80 hours of treatment for sex offenders. The court sentenced him to the three years of sex offender registration because it found that his crimes, which consisted of forcibly fondling the young victim's body on 12 occasions, were reprehensible and it cannot be said that he would not reoffend.

However, the court believed probation was appropriate because he recognized his crimes, regretted them deeply, and reached a monetary settlement with the victim's family. The trial judge sentenced him to 42 months in prison.

### Korea University sexual assault convictions affirmed

The prison sentences handed down to the Korea University medical students convicted of molesting a female classmate while she was drunk have been affirmed on appeal.

The Supreme Court's second petty bench, led by Justice Jeon Su-ahn, affirmed the prison sentences of 1.5 years and 2.5 years, respectively, given to 24-year old Mr. Park and 26-year old Mr. Bae after their convictions for forcible molestation.

Mr. Park and the others were indicted for removing the underwear of their drunken 24-year-old classmate Ms. A and groping her body at a rented house in Yongchu Valley, Gapyeong, Gyeonggi Province, in May of last year.

Many saw this case as an example of young men getting away with crimes and wanted them made examples of. For that reason it was front page news for the past few months.

All stories translated by Nathan Schwartzman at www.koreabeat.com and edited by Groove Korea for length and clarity. The opinions expressed here do not represent those of Groove Korea. — Ed.

## Prosecutors indict North Korea sympathizer

Prosecutors in Incheon have indicted a 49-year-old taxi driver for writing internet posts in praise of and sympathy with North Korea. Both acts are violations of the National Security Law.

According to prosecutors, the man known as Mr. A wrote more than 60 internet posts praising North Korea's three-generation system, its Juche ideology and its military-first policy. He wrote "in Chosun (North Korea), do you know they have the system of two-three generation loyalty to the people and the motherland? The succession is pro-revolutionary and promotes the development of the people and the motherland." In other posts, Mr. A praised the memoirs of Kim Jong-un, the superiority of North Korean society and the leadership abilities of Kim Il-sung and Kim Jong-il. He also praised the Juche ideology and military-first policy, and called for a federal-style reunification, the withdrawal of the United States military, and praised North Korean communism. All of those acts are violations of the National Security Law.

"The U.S military must withdraw, after which North Korea, which maintains the traditional Korean culture, must unify our people by leading a war."

South and North Korea are still at war, since the Korean War ended in a cease fire rather than a peace treaty. North Korea launched military assaults on South Korea twice in the last 24 months, killing dozens of sailors and some civilians. It was recently revealed that some members of a left-wing political party in Seoul had been supporters of North Korean-style communism.

Mr. A praised reunification by any means including war, writing that "the U.S. military must withdraw, after which North Korea, which maintains the traditional Korean culture, must unify our people by leading a war. … Kim Jong-un is a man of drive and determination with the ability to focus on the goal without any shock over compromise or anger."

An official with the Incheon prosecutor's office said that "it is his first crime, and it seems that as a middle-aged man with no formal schooling, he went online and found websites with false information about the North Korean system and got sucked into the propaganda."

## Comfort women begin legal offensive

Women used as sex slaves by the Japanese military have begun a legal offensive against a Japanese citizen who have insulted the "comfort woman" statue across from the Japanese Embassy in Korea.

Women living at the House of Sharing in Gwangju, Gyeonggi Province, including Kim Sun-ok, Bae Chun-hui, Lee Yong-nyeo, Kim Gun-ja, Lee Ok-seon, Kang Il-chul and Yu Hui-nam announced they plan to file a lawsuit for defamation and criminal insult against 47-year-old Suzuki Noboyuki, a Japanese citizen. Their attorney is Park Seon-ah of the Hangang Law Corporation. The women have compiled more than 1,000 instances of defamation related to the statue. They plan to also report Suzuki to the Immigration Service to have him banned from entering the country. "Mr. Suzuki placed a stake on the comfort woman statue, which represents all of us former comfort women, called us prostitutes, and insulted our experiences during the Pacific War caused by Japan," said the House of Sharing in a statement. "He questioned whether Japanese people bore any legal responsibility for committing human rights abuses and praised (Japan's) war crimes."

The women have compiled more than 1,000 instances of defamation related to the statue.

House of Sharing's president Ahn Shin-gwon said "police say there is no statute allowing them to take action, so we are taking legal action to prevent it from happening a second and third time."

Suzuki went to the Korean War and Women's Rights Museum in Seoul in June, then the next day went to the comfort woman statue across from the Japanese Embassy and placed a white sign on it reading "Takeshima is Japanese Territory" in Korean and "Takeshima is Japan's Inherent Land" in Japanese, setting off the current controversy.

## IN BRIEF

### 'Mr. J' busted for distributing dope to teachers

The international crimes division of the Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency arrested 31-year-old American "Mr. J" on charges of smuggling and distributing marijuana from overseas.

Eight other people have also been arrested, including 28-year old "Mr. S," an American professor at a university in Uijeongbu.

They were charged with purchasing a prohibited substance from Mr. J. Also behind bars are 48-year-old Mr. Kim and 36-year-old Mr. Baek, who are both Korean.

According to police, Mr. J, a native-speaker instructor at a language hagwon in Yongin, and university student Mr. Baek sold 90 grams of marijuana worth 9 million won ($815) through December of last year.

The purchasers were said to be native-speaking English instructors at kindergartens, elementary schools and universities in the capital region, according to media reports, but they have not named any of the specific purchasers. They would purchase marijuana from Mr. Baek at 100,000 to 150,000 won per gram.

Mr. Kim regularly smoked hashish with members of a foreign band who practiced at his club in Hongdae, Seoul. They also used the synthetic drug "Eros" or "2C," police said.

Under current law, a person who wishes to work as an English native speaker instructor must undergo a medical evaluation and produce a medical certificate before stepping foot into a classroom.

The incident has fueled anti-English teacher resentment —this is flaring up again in Korea. Some are even calling for drug testing for English teachers mid-contract.

# Seeing Seoul through street art

**Story & photos by** Dirk Schlottmann

Street Art in South Korea is certainly not a "revolution of signs" as the French philosopher Jean Baudrillard once characterized the cryptic lettering (tags, writing) at the beginning of the graffiti culture. But there is a small, lively and innovative cultural scene in Seoul.

Some of the murals are modern-time testimonies. They are, albeit with a quiet tone, political statements, pointed observations of recent social circumstances or expressions of an attitude to life.



# 01
## Education costs

Korea's school system is exemplary, and the high results of South Korean children in the OECD Programme for International Student Assessment study seem to confirm the effectiveness of the education system.

Education is highly valued in a Confucian society such as Korea's. Making it to a top university is the goal of most Korean children from a very young age. Ambitious parents dig deep into their pockets to engage tutors for extra lessons. Accordingly, private acadamies are a multi-billion-dollar industry.

The flip side of this obsession with the educational process is the cause of an enormous amount of work stress, test anxiety and competitiveness. After accidents, suicide is the most common cause of death among teenagers in South Korea.

The flip side of this obsession with the educational process is the cause of an enormous amount of work stress, test anxiety and competitiveness.





# 02
## Questioning nuclear power

Despite the catastrophe at a Japanese nuclear power station in Fukushima, Korea holds tight to its ambitious nuclear program. Nuclear power is seen by the Seoul government as an engine of economic growth and the only practical way to attain energy independence. But since the Fukushima Daiichi disaster, a growing number of Koreans are questioning their government's commitment to nuclear energy. More and more people fear similar accidents will occur in their homeland.

This mutation of a radioactively contaminated rabbit illustrates this new fear.

At least 21 South Korean reactors are operated in four nuclear power plants, accounting for 30 percent of the electricity needs of the country.

More and more people fear similar accidents will occur in their homeland.


Ooops!
I'm SO fat



# 03

## Never thin enough

"What do we long for when we see beauty? To be beautiful. We think much happiness must be connected with it. But that is an error."
—Friedrich Nietzsche

Firm, young, tall, double eyelids, "s-line" and above all – slim. That is just part of the formula for female beauty in Korea, which is home to the highest number of plastic surgeries in the world.

This adds to the tremendous amount of pressure that is already on the shoulders of young women. The media, and in fact almost every part of Korean society, only propagates the formula.

There's only one problem: Even with the help of tens of millions of won, this definition of beauty is unattainable for almost all women.

The orientation of these standards leads to excessive demands on one's appearance. The successful design of the body becomes an obsession. "Thin" is never "thin enough."

The successful design of the body becomes an obsession. "Thin" is never "thin enough."





# 04
## Striking oil

This striking wall painting combines the concepts oil and suicide. This allows room for various interpretations, but the essence of the message is that all that greed for fossil fuels — which is synonymous with greed for money and power — ends in self-destruction.

This could be a reaction to any number of environmental disasters, even the December 2007 oil spill off the West Sea coast of Taean County. Or it might be a reaction to the dependance of economies on oil, particularly Korea, which relies on foreign countries for all of its oil imports.

This allows room for various interpretations, but the essence of the message is that all that greed for fossil fuels — which is synonymous with greed for money and power — ends in self-destruction.


2246-7770
962-1234
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964-3338
965-0909



# 05
## Ball and chain

When one's academic studies have finally come to an end and the process of education is crowned with a university degree, it is natural to question whether or not you have achieved what you had in mind. This mural suggests that, despite feelings of success and freedom, graduates are still in chains.

The high degree of academization in Korea has its price. It is not easy for new graduates to find adequate work and so many of them are working in low-paid jobs or jump from internship to internship in order to find a connection to the labor market.

The most recent employment figures show that the unemployment rate for those in their 20s and 30s is 8 percent, almost three times the overall unemployment rate of 3.2 percent.

The high degree of academization in Korea has its price. It is not easy for new graduates to find adequate work.

# Stash your cash

## How to save and earn interest doing it

**By** Michelle Farnsworth / **Illustration by** Adela Ordoñez




**Dear Michelle,**
There are so many types of installment accounts. How do I know which one is right for me?

An installment account is an interest-earning account into which you can save a little bit at a time.

The first thing you need to decide in selecting your installment account is how often you want to deposit into it. You can choose to either make regular, automatic deposits for a designated amount each month, or you can freely make installment deposits whenever you have time and extra cash.

If you have to cancel the account before the maturity date, there is no penalty. Your principal is secured and there are no additional fees.

You can usually earn slightly higher interest if you set up regular, automatic deposits. Your bank will have many types of installment accounts for you to choose from. You can open a Korean won installment account, foreign currency installment account or a compound interest installment account.

One installment account usually of interest to foreign customers is the "Home Buyer's Installment Account." It was created by the Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs in 2009 to support anyone interested in participating in Korea's Housing Lottery. Opening this account makes the account holder automatically eligible to participate in the housing lottery for the opportunity to purchase high-demand apartments that are currently being built in Korea. The hope is that the money saved in this account will be used to buy homes, although it is not necessary to use your savings to buy a home.

The Home Buyer's Installment Account is available at five local banks in Korea: Shinhan Bank, Woori Bank, Hana Bank, Nonghyup and Industrial Bank of Korea. It is available to international residents in Korea who have a valid Alien Registration Card.

This appeals to foreign customers, because there is no set maturity date. This means that there is absolutely no risk of ever losing the interest rate promised to you on the day that you opened the account.

However, you must open and close this account in person at your local bank branch. It is not possible to open or close this account online.

**"Dear Michelle: Banking Advice for Expats"** is a monthly column written by Michelle Farnsworth. Michelle is the Foreign Client Relationship Manager in the Shinhan Bank Foreign Customer Department. Please visit "Shinhan Expat Banking" on Facebook for more information. The banking information provided in this column is based on Shinhan Bank policies and may not be applicable to all banks in Korea. — Ed.

### Home Buyer's Installment Account

| Deposit period | Interest earned (per annum, pre-tax) |
|---|---|
| ≤ 1 month | 0% |
| > 1 month - ≤ 1 year | 2.5% |
| > 1 year - ≤ 2 years | 3.5% |
| > 2 years | 4.5% |

Unlike the Home Buyer's Installment Account, most other installment accounts have a fixed maturity date — usually six months to five years from the date you opened the account.

One interesting thing about installment accounts in Korea is that if you have to cancel the account before the maturity date, there is no penalty. Of course, you may not earn all of the interest that was promised to you on the day that you opened your account, but your principal is secured and there are no additional fees for early cancellation.

The interest you earn on any kind of installment account is taxed by the National Tax Service (www.nts.go.kr) — just the interest is taxed though, not the principal.

You should ask the teller to apply these special tax rates at the time of opening the account — otherwise only the regular rate will apply. An installment account is a great way to budget and save. Check your bank's website or talk to your teller about setting one up.

| | Capital Gains Tax Rate | Maximum account balance to which rate can apply (per person) | Eligibility |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Regular Rate** | 15.4% | N/A | Individuals |
| **Preferential Rate*** | 9.5% | ≤10 million KRW | 20+ year old individuals |
| **Exemption Rate**** | 0% | ≤30 million KRW | Disabled and / or 60+ year old individuals |

*The preferential rate can be applied to your account if you are at least 20 years old and the account has at least a one-year maturity and a balance of less than or equal to 10 million KRW. Ask your teller how you can benefit from this rate.

**People who are disabled and/or over 60 years of age are eligiblefor tax benefits on a total amount of 60 million KRW (including the Preferential Rate and Exemption Rate).

**CONTACT MICHELLE**
Shinhan Bank Foreign Customer Department
Tel: 02-2151-2874 / Fax: 02-2151-2878 / Mob: 010-4788-1991

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Gran A

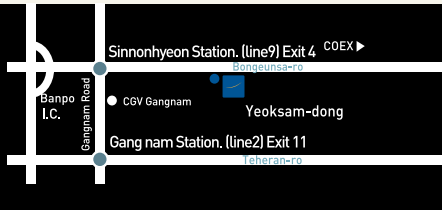
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Price 68,000 won (10% VAT will be added.)
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the bistro




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# Don't stop the music

## K-pop can help you learn Korean

**By** Sun Hyun-woo / **Illustration by** Adela Ordoñez




Tired of studying with books all the time and not sure whether what you are learning right now will be useful in your everyday life? How about listening to a nice song in Korean and humming along?

If you want to know the song better, you will naturally want to understand the lyrics. And having a natural desire to know something that you don't know now is one of the best motivations you can have in learning.

Having some songs in Korean that you enjoy listening to or having a band that you like can be a very strong motivation.

The popularity of K-pop in many parts of the world needs little explanation. As K-pop becomes loved and enjoyed by more and more people, an increasing number of them have started to learn the Korean language because of the songs and the artists they like.

Even if you are just a beginner in Korean, if you have been listening to a lot of K-pop lately, you may already be familiar with many words and phrases used in Korean songs.

But if you had already been studying Korean, would listening to K-pop be useful in learning Korean, too? Or if you do listen to a lot of K-pop and know all the lyrics by heart, why might you still feel less comfortable when speaking Korean?

It all comes down to the question of how to learn a new language effectively. If everybody could learn a new language just by memorizing hundreds of song lyrics and watching a lot of movies in the language, there would be millions more fluent Korean speakers all around the world.

While that doesn't seem to be the case, there are still ways you can use K-pop to learn Korean faster and enjoy the learning process a lot more.

K-pop can make learning Korean less frustrating.

Let's face it. Learning a new language is obviously a lot of work. In order to go from not knowing a single word to being able to understand and speak a new language comfortably, you need to put in a lot of effort and stay motivated to continue learning, forgetting, learning again and practicing. This is where K-pop comes in handy.

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TalkToMeInKorean is a website and community that offers free Korean-language lessons. In a little more than three years, it has built a following that numbers in the hundreds of thousands. Learning Korean may not be easy, but if you find a way to make it fun and exciting, you'll get more out of it and learn faster. TalkToMeInKorean will submit a monthly column on studying Korean. –Ed.

Having some songs in Korean that you enjoy listening to or having a band that you like can be a very strong motivation. Once you are really curious about a certain word or a phrase, it stops feeling like studying and starts feeling more like learning the song.

So if you've been learning Korean through educational material so far, using K-pop as an entertaining element in your study can be a good idea. In a single song, many expressions are repeated, which makes them easier to remember than the phrases you see in a textbook, because there is a melody attached to each of them.

Enjoy K-pop, but don't forget to actively learn, too. Even though many popular K-pop songs are very catchy and addictive, the biggest drawback of learning with K-pop is that a lot of the lyrics have incomplete sentences or expressions that would not be used in real-life situations.

Try writing down the full lyrics of any popular song and show it to a stranger in the street. They will know right away that you took those sentences from a song because they are usually very poetic, and sentences are often shortened or fragmented.

For example, the word for telephone is 전화 (jeon-hwa), but instead of the correct "I called you," 전화를 걸었어 (jeon-hwa-reul geo-reo-sseo), you will often see 전활 걸었어 (jeon-hwal geo-reo-sseo), even in the official lyrics of a song. 전활 is a shortened form of 전화를, and you can look it up in Korean dictionaries all day long but you will never find it. Similarly, 그럴 땐 (geu-reol ttaen) is also a shortened form of 그럴 때에는 (geu-reol ttae-e-neun), meaning "at such times/in that case/when that happens." Again, you can look up 땐 to no avail.

While K-pop is definitely useful for staying motivated and enjoying learning Korean, as far as learning to speak the language is concerned, the most you can get out of K-pop songs are some new vocabulary words and fixed expressions. If you really want to learn a lot of Korean through K-pop songs, however, you need to keep learning actively.

If you've been wanting to finally speak better Korean for a while now and have been looking for ways to be more motivated, listening to good K-pop songs that you enjoy will definitely help. It will also be a good source of new words and expressions.

But don't forget that you still can't skip the less exciting parts - learning how sentences are formed, how verbs are conjugated and how to use different parts of speech.

Let's suppose that you've just heard a certain word in a song and you're sure that you've heard it in other songs. If you still don't know the meaning of the word, it's likely you've been listening only to the melody, or you're genuinely not interested in knowing what the word means.

If you listen to K-pop and work on your grammar at the same time, you will find yourself understanding more and more of not only the words used in the lyrics but also the rich and subtle nuances in the songs that a direct translation can't express.

Even though many popular K-pop songs are very catchy and addictive, the biggest drawback of learning with K-pop is that a lot of the lyrics have incomplete sentences or expressions that would not be used in real-life situations.

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## Slow and steady or super speed

# Rail is right

### Skip the tour bus this summer

**Stories by** Romin Lee Johnson, Josh Foreman, Jenny Na, Matthew Lamers, Colin Roohan, Chris Backe
**Photos courtesy** KORAIL, Korea Tourism Organization



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**Part of the journey**

## How to take the AriAri train (pictured on cover)

**Directions by train from Seoul:**
Make your way to Cheongryangri Station in northeasters Seoul. Get on the Mugunghwa train bound for Mindoongsan Station in Jeongsun City (3 hrs 6 mins. 13,900 won). Next, take a taxi to Gujeoli station. Get on a "railbike" (7.2 km) for Auraji Station.
When you reach Auraji Station, transfer to the AriAri train (pictured on the cover).

**Directions by bus from Seoul:**
From DongSeoul Express Bus Terminal, get on a bus bound for Jeongsun City Bus Terminal (3 hrs 30 mins. 18,300 won). Next, take a taxi to Gujeoli station. Get on a "railbike" (7.2 km) for Auraji Station.
When you reach Auraji Station, transfer to the AriAri train (pictured on the cover).

*It's tough to get tickets on site, so its recommended to make a reservation ahead of time. For timetable info and to make a reservation, go to www.railbike.co.kr.*

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**He was angry and rebuked several people, but he was much more interesting than the business drone who yelled at us on the KTX. We drank and joked and talked about Rex.**



# Jungang Line

**By** Josh Foreman

**Facts**

## Jungang Line

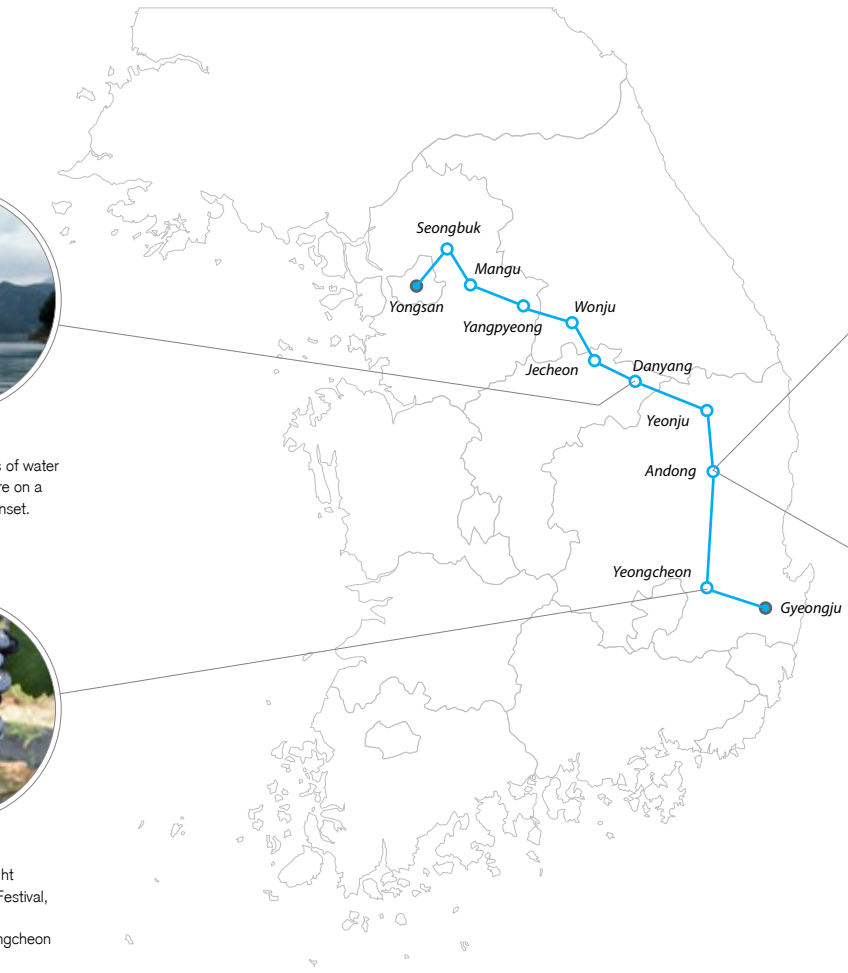
**Where:** Seoul to Gyeongju (transfer for Busan)
**Train type:** Mugunghwa
**Length of trip:** Eight hours
**Frequency:** 2 times a day
**Distance travelled:** 387 km
**Number of stops:** 82 stations
**First run:** 1942
**Ticket price:** 23,100 won
**Dining Car:** Yes



**Chungju Lake**
One of the biggest bodies of water in Korea, make sure you're on a ferry to see a beautiful sunset.



**Yeongcheon**
Bohyeon Mountain Starlight Festival, Summer Grape Festival, Herbal Medicine Festival, Miss Grape contest, Yeongcheon Dam, Eunhaesa Temple.






**Andong Hahoe Village**
This is one of the most magnificent places in Korea if you're into historical villages.
**Directions from Andong Station:** Take a bus 46 and get off at Mask-dance hall. 1hr 21mins. 25.21km.



**Andong Maskdance Festival**
This city is packed with historical and cultural sites.
**Directions from Andong Station:** Take bus 46 and get off at Mask-dance hall. 1hr, 21mins. 25.21km.

# Why the Mugunghwa tops the KTX

"Someone will probably tell us to be quiet in a minute," I told my sister as we pulled away from Yongsan Station on the Busan-bound KTX. "Someone always does."

She had just arrived in Korea, and this was her first train trip here. We chose the KTX for its speed and comfort — Seoul to Busan in three silent hours. We chatted and looked out the window — until the ajoshi in front of us pulled the shade down. After 10 minutes or so, the inevitable happened. The ajoshi's friend turned around, a look of fury and disgust twisting his face. Vitriol poured from his mouth. I responded with profane words and gestures. He grabbed the train attendant and continued his tirade; she politely apologized to us. He turned around, presumably satisfied he had made the trip as miserable as possible for us. I stared at the back of his head and stewed for the next two and a half hours. Sigh. Another angry ajoshi. Another KTX trip ruined.

I wrote last year about the joy that can come from skipping the KTX in favor of the older, slower Mugunghwa. The Mugunghwa — or Rose of Sharon — used to be the go-to train for trips across the country. It costs about half as much as the KTX, but takes twice as long. It's still relatively quiet by train standards, but it has one great advantage over the KTX: its dining/noraebang/arcade/socializing/drinking/overflow car. In that car, no one will ever tell you to be quiet, because it's usually packed with people eating, drinking and singing. Quiet just isn't something you'll find there.

Last year I wrote about a trip to Busan I made with two friends on the Mugunghwa. We made that trip on a random Thursday night. We had seats, but left them soon in favor of the dining car. There we met Rex, a friendly, slightly drunk Korean man who we concluded was either a mafia hitman, a social worker or a celestial being. We talked and drank with Rex for a couple hours. We never could figure out his story. He kept talking about taking care of the "guys on the street." He hinted at living in the U.S., in Latin America, but we could never nail down what exactly he was doing there or here, now. He left us feeling very confused and a little afraid, but with a great story to tell.

I made a similar trip with those same friends recently, except this time to Mokpo, on the southwestern coast. This time we made the trip on a Friday night on a holiday weekend. We didn't have seats, so we had to ride in the dining car. It was absolutely packed. There were so many people in the car we had to balance as we walked because we couldn't get close enough to either wall to hold onto anything. We set up near a window. There was just room enough for the four of us to stand.

People were pressing in from every direction. We had brought a bottle of Jack Daniel's, some Coke and ice. We made drinks, and the time flew. As we got closer to Mokpo, the train cleared a little. By halfway, we had a little elbow room. We made friends with a girl from Seoul and gave her a drink. An old man sitting on the floor sang folk songs. He opened up a container of "cheonggukjang" and stunk the car up.

Another old man with long, gray hair dressed head-to-toe in camouflage waded through the crowd every hour or so on his way to the bar to buy cans of Cass. He was angry and rebuked several people, but he was much more interesting than the business drone who yelled at us on the KTX. We drank and joked and talked about Rex. It wasn't the most comfortable trip, but it was fun and we'll look back on it with fondness.

That's the beauty of the Mugunghwa. It's not the fastest train or the most comfortable. But you'll always have a story after spending five hours on it. It's not just transportation — it's an experience.

**One positive tendency of foreigners, of course, is to take up more room than we need. A few English teachers were quietly mixing soju and Coke for their own makeshift cocktails.**



Photo by Choi Sang-sik / courtesy the Korea Tourism Organization

# Gyeongjeon Line

**By** Chris Backe



**Facts**

## Gyeongjeon Line

**Where:** Miryang-Gwangju
**Train type:** Mugunghwa
**Length of trip:** 5 hours 50 minures
**Frequency:** 1 per day
**Distance travelled:** 316 km
**Number of stops:** 7
**First run:** 1968
**Ticket price:** 19,000 won
**Dining Car:** Yes



**Jirisan National Park**
This is one of the most sacred mountains in Korea. Here you'll find wildlife, temples and villages.



**Chok-suk Pavilion**
This is another of Korea's beautiful pavilions, but this one rests beside a river.
**Directions from Jinju Station:** Take bus 27 and get off at Nong-hyup Bank stop. 16mins. 1.94km.



**Kyeong-Wha Station, Jinhae**
At its finest in the spring during cherry blossom season.
**Directions from Masan Station:** Take bus 108 and get off at Shinsegye Dept. Store. Transit to bus 860 and get off at Kyeong-Wha bus stop. 45mins. 15.44km.



**Upo, Mokpo, Sajipo**
This is the largest inland wetland in Korea.
**Directions from Miryang Station:** Take Express Bus bound for Changnyeong.




# The social train

It's a little-known fact that you can travel by train between Miryang and Gwangju. Why is it little known? Maybe because this line doesn't appear on Korail's website. Nonetheless, this is a beautiful route through Korea and is one that should be traveled more than it is.

Traveling by train isn't a speed date, but it still gets you where you're trying to go. It's also a great place to strike up a conversation, especially on the Gyeongjeon Line, which slowly moves through a rather diverse set of landscapes.

Extroverts couldn't ask for more. The train implies a common purpose — or at least the beginning of plenty of conversations.

Subways and buses have more than enough places to get off, making conversations more rushed and less involving. The last time I rode a standing-room-only train, the glass-half-full side of me went out in search of an open seat — or at least the face of a fellow foreigner. The usual rules of staking out a place and trying to get comfortable be damned — that was a packed train.

I notice a few people quietly mixing soju and Coke for their own makeshift cocktails. All the better to make a five-hour ride go by, I thought, and broke out a beer of my own.

We chatted about the usual things: life in Korea, our schools, our co-teachers, the Korean people, the countryside. I bragged about how I've traveled the country; they bragged about the crazy foods they've tried in their travels around Asia. It reminded me that our experiences as expats are amazingly similar, no matter where we currently live or where we came from. The biggest difference, of course, is how we choose to live our lives. It's at this point when I feel the need to cite an as-yet-unnamed rule amongst English teachers: the longer a conversation goes on, the more likely the subject will turn to their personal horror stories about schools or students.

That point happened about 10 minutes in, at which point everyone seemed to stop and realize the silliness of talking about work — we're traveling to take us away from the working world, dammit!

Later, another foreigner happened to sit down next to me just as the ride got underway. Apparently this was her boyfriend's last weekend in Korea. She reminisced about their lives together, not once mentioning where life would take her next. It was a reminder that life in Korea is more a fleeting chapter of life than a volume in and of itself. The moral of the stories?

Meeting other expats and English-speaking locals doesn't have to happen in the haze and alcohol-induced glow of a bar.

It also won't happen if you're closed to the opportunity, so pull out the earphones once in a while and be approachable. The old saying about "the journey is half the fun" was right, after all. But you have to make the choice to seek it out.

**I had long toyed with the idea of going to my orphanage to see if there was any information about my adoption, but I kept putting it off because I had been told there wasn't any, and frankly I was scared to find out it was true.**



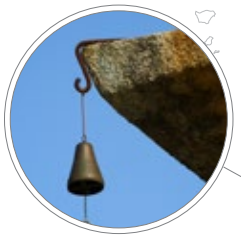
# Gyeongbu Line

**By** Jenny Na

Facts

## Gyeongbu Line

**Where:** Seoul to Busan
**Train type:** Mugunghwa and KTX
**Length of trip:**
5 hours 28 minutes (Mugunghwa)
2 hours 40 minutes (KTX)
**Frequency:**
14 times a day (Mugunghwa)
Three times per hour (KTX)
**Distance travelled:** 441 km
**First run:** 1905
**Ticket price:**
28,600 won (Mugunghwa)
53,300 won (KTX)
**Dining Car:**
On Mugunghwa trains only



**Haeinsa Temple, Hapcheon**
This is another UNESCO site.
**Directions from Dongdaegu Station:** Take subway Line 1 to Sungdangmot station. Come out to exit 3 and walk to Seobu Bus Terminal. Take Express Bus bound for Hapcheon. 1hr 42mins.



**Daegu Apsan Park**
A cable car ride to the top of this tiny mountain will make a nice afternoon.
**Directions from Dongdaegu Station:** Get on the subway; go to Anjirang Station (Line 1), then take exit 3. Hop on bus 410 and get off at Apsan Park.



**Yeongnamnu Pavilion**
Located on Mt. Adongsan next to Namcheongang River.
**Directions from Miryang Station:** Take City Bus 1 or 10 (10 minutes).



**Busan**
One of the best cities in Korea. Go there to find out why.




# A journey to my orphanage

When I boarded the train, I wasn't sure where I'd end up. I had long toyed with the idea of going to my orphanage to see if there was any information about my birth family, but I kept putting it off because I had been told there wasn't any, and frankly I was scared to find out it was true. When I purchased my ticket, I intended to go there, but I knew there was also the very real possibility that I would bail and let the towns sail by as I continued south. After all, I hadn't even made an appointment.

As we pulled out of the station I felt that familiar sensation of having my whole body relax at once, which always happens when I take the train. My mind relaxes, too, and I am finally free to reflect on where I've been and where I'm going. I imagine the lives of the people flashing by the window or how my life would be different if I were them. It's a habit I've had since I was young, being driven down rural Minnesota roads in the backseat of our sturdy boat of a car and waiting for my life to change.

But this wasn't my first trip on this line, and as I gazed out the window, I couldn't help but think back to that other one, a summer vacation I never wanted. It was my first trip to Korea, and I was with my mom. After landing in Seoul, I was shuttled around with the largest group of adoptees I had ever met (and our white parents) to strange-smelling restaurants and busy markets where people grabbed and pulled and talked to me in a language that I couldn't understand. My mom had decided that it was time for me to experience Korea. As my dad will tell you, I would rather have gone to Hollywood. At the moment, however, I just wanted to run away.

So when we boarded the train for a trip down south to my orphanage, the first of five on our itinerary, I could not have been less excited. The train was a rickety thing that made me sick, and the clunky ka-chunk of the wheels clanking against the rails didn't make me feel any better. But it was on the train that I finally had some time to breathe. I can't imagine I would have thought about it too long (I was too young and too distracted by the other adoptees and their strangeness), but it was there that I began to form some of the first serious questions about who I was and where I had come from.

As we rolled by green rice fields swallowing up small houses patched together like quilts, we saw farmers bent over plows pulled by oxen and women pulling up plants in the sun. The words echoed in my mind: Are these my people? Was this my home? The women were positioned in what my mom had come to call the "Korean crouch," a reference that had always made me wonder if I was the only one who hunkered down that way or if I were part of some grand group of people who kept low to the ground, the better to observe the world unnoticed. But by then, we had seen a palace or two and my lineage as a member of Korean royalty had solidified itself in my childlike mind. I was ready to accept my fate, even if I was going to have to give up my long-held Hollywood dreams. But this was way better. Right?

My adult self was pulled back to the present when our train jerked to a stop as mothers started shuttling their kids toward the door. As it opened, I know I had to decide whether to go through it or keep on going. But first, I realized something. That first trip was a beginning.

It may not have been the trip I wanted, but it was the one I needed the most.

**There were plenty of seats open on the Gyeongchun train, but I stood at the doors, forehead pressed against the window, scanning the passing landscape. It had been ages since I had been this remotely outside of Seoul, on a trip to Korea nearly 10 years ago.**

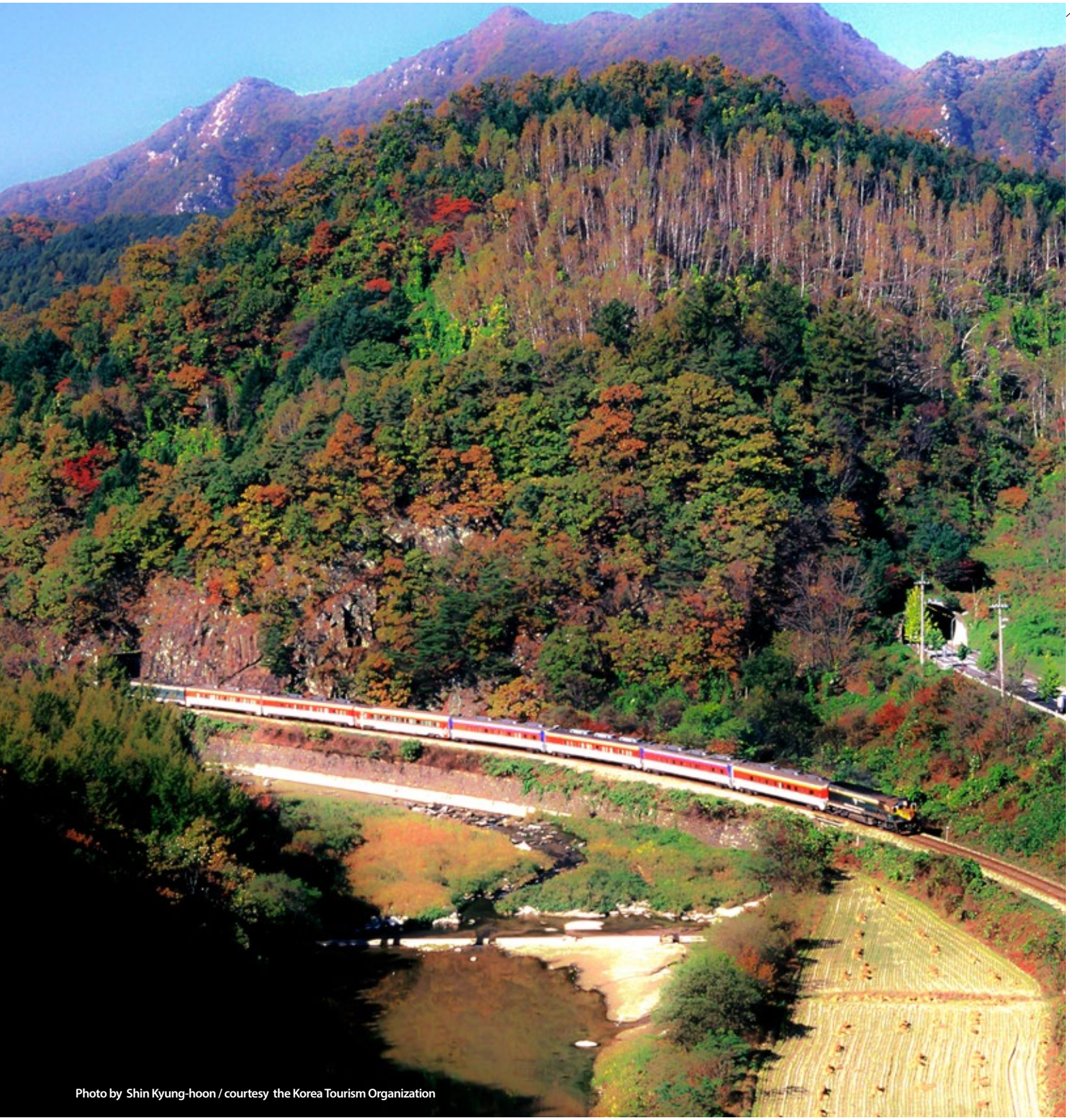


Photo by Shin Kyung-hoon / courtesy the Korea Tourism Organization

# Gyeongchun Line

**By** Romin Lee Johnson



**Chuncheon Myeongdong Dakgalbi Street**
If you like flaming-hot chicken, this is the place for you.
**From Chuncheon Station:** Take bus 18-1 and get off at Myeongdong bus stop. Walk about 140m. 12mins.



**Nami Island**
This island was manmade to be a tourist trap, but it's worth every minute. You might even want to stay the night at one of its pensions.
**From Gapyeong Station:** Take bus 33-5 bound for Nami Island. 15mins. 2.28km.



**Cheongpyeong Lake**
This whole area is spectacular. Pensions are aplenty and there are several outdoor activities.
**Directions from Cheongpyeong Station:** Take bus 1330-3 and get off at Gapyeong Bus Terminal. Transit to 33-6 and get off at Sajo Resort bus stop. 1hr 34mins.






**Maseok Chamsut Gama**
This place is hailed by many as one of the best in Korea.
**Directions from Maseok station:** Take bus 765 from the station and transit to 30-7 at Maseok jigudae (Dongbu Heemang Care Center). Get off at the Jangcheon Gogae bus stop and walk about 640m. 29mins. 3.49km.

Facts

## Gyeongchun Line

**Where:** Seoul to Chuncheon
**Train type:** Commuter train; it recently became part of the Seoul transit system
**Length of trip:** 1 hour 28 minutes
**Frequency:** 50 times a day
**Distance travelled:** 81 km
**Number of stops:** 18
**First run:** 1939 (original route), 2010 (new route)
**Ticket price:** 2,650 won
**Dining Car:** No

## A sense of clarity

I'm to catch the Gyeongchun train towards Chuncheon to God-knows-where for a week-long meditation retreat. Did I make this decision? Damned if I know.

It was February 2011. Cold. We'd been in Korea for three miserable months, most of that time spent huddled on an ondol mattress on my father-in-law's office floor flipping through the six or so English channels. It was becoming impossible to avoid my Korean mother-in-law's gaze and her harsh but well-meaning badgering.

I wasn't in the best shape. Back stateside, I'd had a fairly complete mental breakdown a month before my second son was born. We were suddenly no longer in Seattle, but in Korea, living with my in-laws, which certainly didn't help me feeling like I had utterly failed my wife and family.

I'm on an escalator taking me down to the subway. Two transfers to get to the right station for the train; yes, of course I'll remember. I'm waving back at my wife who is smiling sadly, our five-month-old strapped to her chest, our older son holding her hand and waving back at me. Her smile was a loving but stern ultimatum; it's been six months, time to get your head straight and your feet back under you because we need you.

There were plenty of seats open on the Gyeongchun train, but I stood at the doors, forehead pressed against the window, scanning the passing landscape. It had been ages since I had been this remotely outside of Seoul, on a trip to Korea nearly 10 years before. A fresh snow covered the rolling hills, barren trees and dilapidated farm houses with their clay tile roofs.

Occasionally a train would go roaring by in the opposite direction inches from my face, momentarily obliterating any semblance of stillness I'd achieved.

My station came and went without a second thought; it appeared as though I had boarded an express train, and the next stop was three past mine. It was of no consequence. I grabbed my backpack and stepped off the train at the next stop and took in a deep breath of the countryside air.

Standing on the platform in a small town in the Korean countryside, I felt a sense of clarity for the first time in the six months.

I'm still here. Because we need you.

**Several people get off and only a couple get on, leaving a few more seats open. I'm comfortable, and the 50-something gentlemen next to me is peacefully asleep.**



Photo by Jeon Guk-hui / courtesy the Korea Tourism Organization

# Honam Line

**By** Chris Backe



**Daejeon**
Mt. Sikjangsan, Mt. Bomunsan, Mt. Gubongsan, Mt. Jangtaesan, Mt. Gyejoksan, Lake Daecheonghosu

**Facts**

## Honam Line

**Where:** Seoul to Mokpo or Gwangju
**Train type:** Mugunghwa
**Length of trip:**
5 hours (Mugunghwa)
3 hours 20 minutes (KTX)
**Frequency:** 38 times a day (KTX)
**Distance travelled:** 404.4 km (Yongsan–Mokpo) or 349.6 km (Yongsan–Gwangju)
**First run:** 2004 (KTX)
**Mugunghwa price:** 25,400 won
**KTX price:** 41,600 won
**Dining Car:** Only Mugunghwa trains



**Boseong Green Tea Field**
This is another place you have to visit before leaving Korea. Try to get there in late summer.
**Directions from Gwangju**
**Station:** Take Express Bus bound for Boseong from Gwangju Bus Terminal; 1hr 30 mins.



**Juknokwon (Bamboo Garden)**
Spend an afternoon walking through this dense bamboo forest.
**Directions from Gwangju**
**Station:** Take bus 311 bound for Juknokwon. 1hr. 23.26km.



**Dadohaehaesang National Park**
One of the most beautiful national parks in Korea.



**Youngsan River**
The Youngsan River is the most beautiful in Korea.
**Diections from Naju Station:**
Take bus 160 and transfer to bus 180 at Seobang intersection and get off at Bongsan bus stop. 2hrs 40mins. 47.53km




## An ipseok adventure

Iksan Station. A transfer station. Crap. Time to surreptitiously pack up and be ready to move without looking concerned. The train doors open, and a few people file off while dozens more push their way on. I'm sitting there casually reading on my iPad when a 20-something guy comes up and taps a few buttons on his smartphone to bring up his e-ticket. Yep, he's a winner, and up I go in search of another empty chair. My backpack is stowed safely above the masses of weary travelers, so I work my way through the crowd to the café car, complete with computers, massage chairs, and plenty of beverages. This area is typically full, but empties out over the train's run.

Ahh, the ipseok (입석) ticket. In some cases, not planning ahead or traveling at a peak time means you'll be riding on a standing-room ticket. It's a little cheaper (5-15 percent depending on the destination), but you run the risk of standing for literally your entire ride. You can, of course, sit in any unoccupied seat, but you must yield it to the ticket-holder when or if they show up.

Gimje Station. Not a transfer station, but more than a few getting off. I have my eye on a block of seats, hoping that one of them will stay unoccupied. So does an ajumma, apparently with a standing ticket herself. As the doors open and people find their seats, precisely two seats remain open. I claim one. It's all mine, at least until the next stop.

Here's a tip: Look out the window for a few minutes. Put your tablet or smartphone away, and take a second to appreciate a few things you might see across the countryside.

Jeongeup Station. One person from my car gets off, and nobody gets on. So far so good, although it's rather hard to genuinely rest when someone could kick you out of your seat at any moment. I remind myself to plan ahead whenever taking the train. The Honam line runs through some of the most fertile land in Korea, although the first Honam line can be credited to the Japanese and forced labor starting in 1904. Today, the views offer plenty of rice fields and gardens.

Jungseong Station. Several people get off and only a couple get on, leaving a few more seats open. I'm comfortable, and the 50-something gentlemen next to me is peacefully asleep.

I pull out my iPad for some games, then eventually tire of the prospect and opt to zone out. The window affords a decent view, though this section of South Jeolla Province offers little to see during the night. Only a few lights in the distance imply the train is moving, and only the proximity to a train station brings much change.

Hotels, restaurants and perhaps a fancy bridge or two light up the cityscape. If you travel on an ipseok ticket, expect the train to be somewhat-to-crazy packed. While there is a limit to how many standing-room tickets are sold, that's probably the last thing in the world you're thinking about if you're just trying to get comfortable on the train. The café car fills up quickly, but anecdotal evidence suggests the first two cars of a train have fewer people standing around and are more likely to offer seats.

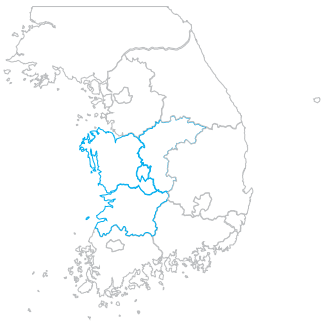
As the train pulls into the Gwangju terminal, a few people stand up and move to the train doors, queuing up as if they had an 11:30 p.m. appointment. Others, like myself, take the opportunity to relax until the train comes to a complete stop and the doors actually open. Welcome to Gwangju, I think, and find my way to a love motel for the night.

**Young adolescents dressed similar to their favorite pop stars all crowd together to watch videos and take tips on the latest dance moves, while their grandparents pace the quiet halls nearby humming old Korean ballads that once helped unite a nation.**



# Janghang Line

**By** Colin Roohan



**Facts**

## Janghang Line

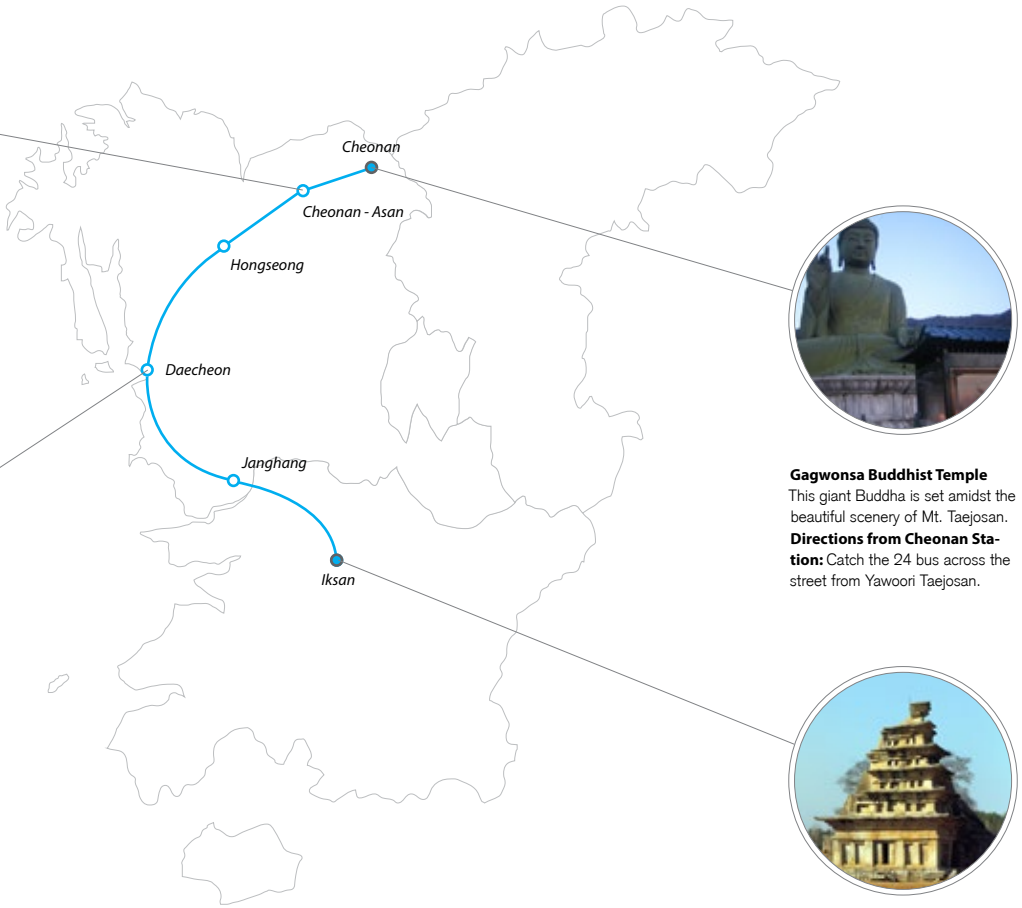
**Where:** Cheonan to Iksan
**Train type:** Mugunghwa
**Length of trip:** 2 hours 40 minutes
**Frequency:** 6 times a day
**Distance travelled:** 145 km
**Number of stops:** 5
**First run:** 1922
**Ticket price:** 8,600 won
**Dining Car:** Yes



**Oeam-ri Folk Village**
This is a somewhat authentic 500-year-old village.
**Directions from Onyang Oncheon Station:** Take bus bound for Gangdanggol and get off at Oeam-ri Folk Village. 40 mins.



**Daecheon Beach**
Famous for its medicinal mud, this sandy beach stretches for kilometers.
**Directions from Daecheon Station:** Take a bus bound for Daecheon Beach. 10 min intervals. Get off at Daecheon Beach station.






**Gagwonsa Buddhist Temple**
This giant Buddha is set amidst the beautiful scenery of Mt. Taejosan.
**Directions from Cheonan Station:** Catch the 24 bus across the street from Yawoori Taejosan.



**Iksan**
These ancient tombs were only discovered in 1986.
**Directions from Iksan Station:** Take bus 35 or 35-1 and get off at Ipjeom. Ipjeomni Ancient Tombs are a 15 min walk from the bus stop.

# Strangers helping strangers

As my wife and I sat on the hot floor of the crowded train, we both had a moment of ESP. "Why didn't we take a later departure? There may have been seats available!" So there we were sitting Indian-style, hunched over, on the train's dingy carpet. We were taking advantage of a long holiday weekend and decided to take some time to explore cities outside of Seoul. We were headed towards Boryeong from Cheonan.

The main station in Cheonan was quaint and quiet and as we rested in the station, waiting on our departing train, the sweet smell of bread and nuts wafted through our area. I had heard a rumor of Cheonan's walnut balls being some of the best in Korea and through my own independent research can confirm that they indeed have something special going in that batter.

Rail travel in Korea can be very entertaining, and while the trains are fairly modern themselves, the atmosphere in the station and on the platforms seems to be a mash-up of old meets new. In almost no other place in the world would you expect to be able to purchase high-tech electronics a stone's throw from freshly picked produce.

Adolescents dressed similar to their favorite pop stars all crowd together to watch videos and take tips on the latest dance moves, while their grandparents pace the quiet halls nearby, humming old Korean ballads. Everyone is curious and everybody is friendly. You thought you had seen it all until a woman three times your age rises to her feet and offers you her seat.

When the time came, we made our way onto the platform and found the proper area for the "standing" car. As the train pulled in passengers entered and exited in no particular fashion. The car was humid and crowded, but the fans were on high so the temperature was bearable. My wife and I found some space near a window and settled in.

The constant clinking of train on track lulled me to a constant head bob. A sudden jerk of the train caused my eyes to snap open. Glancing to the right I noticed a group of young men finding humor in my fatigue. After chatting for a while, we found out that they were from Boryeong and were returning home from a wrestling tournament. We talked about soccer and various aspects about life in Korea.

I asked them what actions I should take to get to our destination, and they told me not to worry because they would walk us to the bus that would get us there. I told them that wouldn't be necessary, but these young men were insistent.

We were led to our bus and one of the guys muttered something to the driver, he then looked at me and flashed a grin.

He said we would have no problems and to trust the driver. We thanked the guys one last time for all of their help and all gave a polite nod in response.

For me, these types of encounters made my time in Korea very memorable.

Strangers helping strangers. Above and beyond what would be expected.

**My family was fond of the green fields, the towns we breezed through, and in some cases, glimpses of other people's lives: a porter helping an elderly couple onto the train, only to be outdone by four other men who dropped what they were doing to lend a hand.**



Photo by Lee Sin-rye / courtesy the Korea Tourism Organization

# Jeolla Line

**By** Matthew Lamers



**Facts**

## Jeolla Line

**Where:** Iksan-Yeosu
**Train type:** Mugunghwa, KTX
**Length of trip:** 2.5 hours to 4 hours
**Number of stops:**
Mugunghwa: 9 stations
KTX: 5 stations
**First run:** Mugunghwa: 1917
KTX: 2012
**Ticket price:** Mugunghwa: 11,200
KTX: 17,400
**Dining Car:** Mugunghwa trains only



**Naganeupseong Folk Village**
Perfectly preserved homes from the Jeoson Dynasty offer picturesque views and great homestays.
**Directions from Suncheon Station:** Take bus 63 at Suncheon station and get off at NaganeupSeong Folk Village. 1hr. 21.86km



**Suncheon Bay**
This is one of the most extensive and well-protected coastal marshes in the world.
**Directions from Suncheon Station:** Take bus 67 from Suncheon station and get off at Suncheon Bay. 38mins.



**Hyangiram Hermitage, Yeosu**
Go to the Hermitage temple to watch the sun rise or set. Most beautiful place in Yeosu.
**Directions from Yeosu Station:** Take bus 111 at Yeosu Expo Station L terminal and get off at Impo (Hyangiram) bus stop. 1hr 41mins. 30.97km.



**Gokseong Train Village**
This place has lots to do for the family.
**Directions from Gokseong Station:** Take bus bound for Baekgok and get off at the next stop. 1.88km.




## Part of the journey

It's often said that the joy of travel is not found at the destination but is realized in the journey. That was the case on a trip to Yeosu four years on this slow train south.

Once you escape the sprawling greater Seoul area, you're greeted by the green openness of South Chungcheong Province, before being released into the plains of North and South Jeolla. In a matter of hours you're transported from a crush of people and concrete to a refreshing, clear landscape.

But this day wasn't about the scenery or the train. It was about family, a reunion. My wife and I's fellow travellers were my parents, brother and sister, whom I hadn't seen in quite some time.

We were so busy that we hardly had any time to talk to each other — to catch up, face-to-face, on family news and other happenings at home. It felt like years since I'd looked into my parents' eyes. It's an unsettling feeling, noticing changes in their appearance - a wrinkle here, a few pounds there. They're getting older; their lives charge forward while mine stands still. I'm missing too much, I thought. My mind goes to my sister's baby, Alex, who is a year old and I haven't even met. Does my time in Korea have an expiry date?

We were on the Mugunghwa bound for Yeosu. Sure, this isn't the Bandung-Jakarta Argo Parahyangan that passes some of the most remarkable scenery in Asia accessible by rail, nor is it Malaysia's Jungle Train. On this route the company you are with will probably be what you remember the most. Still, there is some beauty outside those windows.

My family was fond of the green fields, the towns we breezed through, and in some cases, glimpses of other people's lives: a porter helping an elderly couple onto the train in Daejeon, only to be outdone by four other men who dropped what they were doing to lend a hand.

My dad, being a bit of a history buff, gave us a Wikipedia-inspired education on the Jeolla Line: It is one of the oldest rail lines in Korea, having been built in stages in the 1920s and the 1930s. The KTX recently began shuttling passengers from Seoul all the way to Yeosu, cutting the travel time in half.

Mom marveled at the service. My brother complained about the Cass and my sister read her book. My wife and I took pictures of each other in the reflection of the windows. I miss these moments of togetherness.

This train can be many things. If it's the quickest, most time-efficient route from Point A to Point B, then the Mugunghwa isn't for you, but the brand-new KTX makes Korea's southern coast accessible from Seoul in little more than three hours.

It's been four years since this trip, and my wife and I have been blessed with two beautiful girls. This is our journey.

# Train Fare

## Sampling delicacies between the rails in Cheongdam

**By** Ryan Noel / **Photo by** Ray Kahn and Ryan Noel




표고버섯







Sandwiched between the subway tracks of Cheongdam Station is a third train. It sits there between the platforms with its lights on, station marker lit, and doors open, looking as if it just arrived and will soon depart. But its cars are not going anywhere. Unlike most trains, this one is not for transportation, but a foodie destination. It is the "Jangteo Yeolcha," or Metro Market. Locals in the know come here for fresh produce, handmade goods and delicacies from the countryside. Vendors with wares settled in on the seats and fixtures of the subway cars offer a juxtaposition to the cold glass facades of the high-fashion shops and restaurants above.

First introduced in July 2009, the Metro Market sells products from a series of subway cars in the unused central lane at Cheongdam Station. Air-conditioned and tucked away from the rain, cold and heat (especially nice during the monsoon rains), you can take your time browsing a range of vegetables, fruits, dried seafood, meats, poultry, seaweed, herbs, teas and handmade snacks. The colors are vibrant and the variety from car to car gives the market the feel of an open market.

As open markets go, it is not large but it is interesting. In fact, the size and format made it less intimidating to me as a foreigner. And I have never encountered a more cheerful and friendly group of vendors.

> "Vendors offered samples of red, ripe cherry tomatoes (juicy, sweet and delicious) and herbal tea made from wild flowers."

After overcoming the hurried feeling that the doors were about to close and I would miss my stop, I found it was genuinely fun to watch as shoppers passed through the narrow doorways between cars and peered down the center of the train. Each car contains a different mix of colors, sounds, smells and personalities, with commuters constantly scurrying outside their doors.

The day we visited, they had succulent produce, seafood and "norungji" – rice cakes. Dried persimmons and all manner of persimmon goods were some of the seasonal specialties on display.







Vendors offered samples of ripe cherry tomatoes (juicy, sweet and delicious) and herbal tea made from wild flowers. Just show a little interest and a brown or black baked egg will be broken open and offered to you with a dash of salt or piece of roasted seaweed. You can even feel the different textures of beans, grains and dried seafood, and try a sampling of Korean sauces such as doenjang, gochujang, ssamjang and shrimp-based pastes.

Cheongdam Station is stop number 729 on Line 7, between the Ttukseom Resort and Gangnam-gu Office stops. The market is held four times a month from Tuesday to Thursday and goods are sold from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Prices are reasonable, especially compared to the prices above ground. And as this is Korea, bargaining is expected. Many goods are seasonal and rotate in for only a few weeks. The products can be attractively packaged for gift giving, which is something to consider for the upcoming Chuseok holiday, and the market makes a great stop in between sightseeing destinations (as you need not leave the subway). It isn't easy to find a place where all Korea's flavors can be sampled bite-by-bite, but in Cheongdam it's just a train platform away.



# The trick to Perfect chicken

**By** Read Urban



Groove **Recipe**

**Preparation time:** 3 hours
**Difficulty:** Easy

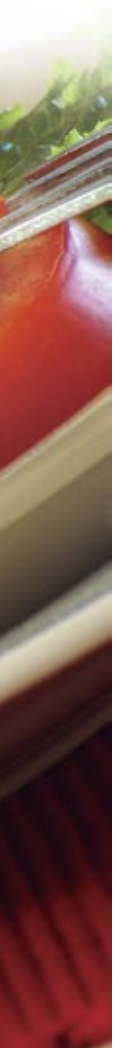
It's grilling season. Barbecues are popping up in between the downpour and charcoal is being stoked. I'm grilling chicken this month because it is the easiest (and probably cheapest) protein to get your hands on in Korea.

The first, and probably most important, step is brining the chicken. A brine is a salt water solution you place your meat in for several hours before cooking. The brine forces itself into the protein, resulting in a moist, tender chicken. It is a process that is perfect for chicken and pork and is appropriate for most methods of cooking, whether it is roasting, grilling, smoking or frying. It can be a long process, largely unattended, but if you have the time it is worth it.

> "It is a process that is perfect for chicken and pork and is appropriate for most methods of cooking, whether it is roasting, grilling, smoking or frying."

When you set up the charcoal for your grill, make sure to make several heat-different "zones." Moving the charcoal to one area will help you regulate the temperature and prevent burning your food.

Apply your sauce to the chicken in the last few minutes of grilling. Any sooner and you risk burning the sugars in the barbecue sauce. I baste the chicken twice: several minutes before the chicken is done and right as it comes off the grill to rest. The first application lets some of the sugars caramelize; the second time around makes sure they are fully sauced and ready to go. A kitchen brush is an important tool to use, letting you get an even coating.



**Brine Solution**

- 2 liters of cold water
- ½ cup of non-iodized salt
- 8 whole peppercorns
- 6 crushed cloves of garlic
- 1 large green onion (Korean "pa") roughly chopped

**BBQ Sauce**

- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 cloves of garlic, minced
- 3 medium tomatoes, seeded and chopped
- 2 tbsp of butter
- 2 tbsp ground mustard
- ½ cup tomato paste
- ½ water
- 1 tbsp gochugaru
- 1/3 cup brown sugar
- 1/3 cup vinegar (red wine or apple will work)

**Directions for Brine Solution**

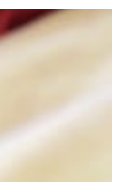
Dissolve the salt in warm water, and then add everything to the cold water. Add your protein to the brine and let it sit undisturbed in the fridge. A whole (Korean) chicken is going to take 5-6 hours (it's best to err on the shorter side), while a quartered chicken will take less, between 2-4. I aimed for 3 hours. When you are ready, remove the chicken from the brine, pat dry and toss the liquid. You are ready to grill.

On a preheated grill, place your room temperature chicken skin side down over direct medium high heat. Grill for 4-5 minutes on each side. Move the chicken to a cooler area of the grill and cover. Cook for an additional 20 minutes or until the chicken is cooked through. When the chicken is almost done, baste with the barbeque sauce, letting it cook for 3-4 minutes. When the chicken is fully cooked, remove from the grill to a cutting board to rest for 5-10 minutes. Baste with another layer of sauce and serve.

**Directions for BBQ Sauce**

In a saucepan, sauté the onions and garlic in the vegetable oil over medium heat until translucent (3-5 minutes). Add the tomato paste and cook for a few minutes, coating the onion and garlic. Add the fresh tomatoes. Cook for an additional 5 minutes before adding the rest of the ingredients. Simmer for 30 minutes and transfer to a blender. Puree and return back to the saucepan to check for seasoning.

**About the author:** Read Urban, a Virginia native, spent years cooking in the United States before coming to Korea. He enjoys experimenting with Korean ingredients, eating at innovative restaurants in Seoul and creating favorites from home.







# Getting the most out of your fish

## Try out this classic Spanish technique

**By** Paloma Julian



Groove **Recipe**

**Preparation time:** 4 hours
**Difficulty:** Easy

During one of the most appetizing dinners of my summer so far, a chef delighted us with a tasting of several kinds of fish cooked using different techniques. If you have read this column before, you already know my passion for fish. I believe it is cultural. Spain, my country, is the fifth-largest consumer of fish in the world, after Japan, China, Norway and Portugal.

After tasting several dishes, I experienced an explosion of Mediterranean in my mouth. My summer flashed before my eyes: my family, on the beach, watching the Euro Cup, and tapas at a bar. And in case you were wondering what contributed to the unexpected Mediterranean fiesta, an amazing Japanese chef included pickled fish in one of his culinary masterpieces.

After tasting several dishes, I experienced an explosion of Mediterranean in my mouth. My summer flashed before my eyes: my family, on the beach, watching the Euro cup with, and tapa at a bar.

The tapa that we are going to cook today is one of the most popular in Spain. I don't know anyone who cannot cook it or buy it for very cheap in a supermarket, but this is not enough of a reason to not honor it. In recent times, preserving food has become a mysterious process that someone else does and we just enjoy. However, not that long ago, our ancestors were skilled in the art of food preservation. Those techniques are an essential part of our culinary culture today, with kimchi being a prime example.

Previously in this column I wrote about how to cook fish in salt. Today, we will learn how to cook fish in vinegar.

The pickling technique can be used to preserve vegetables, onions, olives, carrots, garlic, etc. Today, let's try my personal favorite — anchovies cooked in vinegar, halfway sashimi and halfway pickled.

**Pickled Fish**

- 12 clean anchovies
- 3 liters of white wine vinegar
- A pinch of salt
- Garlic
- Parsley
- Olive oil

**Directions**

The first step of this recipe, cleaning the anchovy, can be annoying, but I promise that the final product is well worth it. You will need to cut off the head of the fish, take out the insides, remove the spine and clean out any residual blood. Only the tail and meat should remain.

Place the open anchovies in a deep tray, and cover with the vinegar. If you are using very strong vinegar, you can soften with water, but I do not personally recommend doing so. Sprinkle the anchovies with a pinch of salt.

Next, put the tray in your fridge for at least four hours. You should gradually see the anchovies get whiter as the vinegar cooks the meat.

While the vinegar does its job, mix the olive oil with the chopped garlic and parsley, and put it aside.

After four hours, remove the fish from the vinegar, place on a clean plate, and cover them with the olive oil mixture. Leave the fish in the olive oil mixture for another hour to allow the fish to absorb the new flavors.

Now the tapa is more than ready to eat.

Serve the dish with beer or a very cold white wine. Anchovy tapas will take you five hours to prepare, but believe me when I say that it is well worth the wait. Plus, the vinegar does all the work for you.

**About the author:** Paloma Julian is Spanish to the core, although she hasn't lived there in years. A woman of many talents, she enjoys bringing the nuances of Spanish food culture to Seoul's English-speaking community.





# SUPER

## Smashing Pumpkins, Tears for Fears, New

## Smashing Pumpkins

The Pumpkins need little introduction for anyone born before 1990. They are coming off a 13-city American tour late last year and a European tour in November and December. This is their first trip to Korea in a decade.



# SONIC 2012

## Order, Foster the People, Soulwax, Gotye

# Greatest concert of the summer?

## In its first year in Seoul, Super!Sonic brings a stacked lineup

**Story by** Martin Roche

Circle Aug. 14 and 15 on the calendar. With acts like the Smashing Pumpkins, Tears for Fears, New Order, Foster the People and Gotye, Super!Sonic might turn out to be the biggest surprise of your summer. It's just a short subway ride away.

The line-up is wide open and fan friendly, offering everything from new wave and synth to electronica jam and punk-influenced rock. Indeed, when Super!Sonic gets its groove on at Olympic Park in Seoul, some of the biggest bands over the past 30 years will be rocking the stage.

But it ain't cheap. A single-day pass will run you 150,000 won and a two-day ticket costs 240,000 won. Passes are also being sold for each of the two stages — separated by only a short walk through Olympic Park — 77,000 won and 110,000 won apiece. No camping or three-hour bus required. That's the price you pay for convenience.

Super!Sonic is an export of the Japanese festival Summer Sonic. After almost a decade of success across the East Sea, festival promoters' heads are turned to Seoul and the international attention the peninsula is gaining by bringing in top tier acts.

If you haven't been to Olympic Park in some time, you will notice some big changes. The home of the 1988 Olympic Summer Games underwent a major renovation in 2011. Would you like some culture with your rock n' roll? Informational kiosks on Korean culture, odd sculptures and modern art make Super!Sonic and Olympic Park an interesting pairing.

## The bands you know

Headlining the festival are British new wave artists Tears for Fears and synth rockers New Order. Both are veteran acts that originally came onto the scene in the 1980s with hits "Blue Monday" and "Everybody Wants to Rule the World."

Also headlining are the Smashing Pumpkins. Billy Corgan leads a revamped line-up on their newest tour.

The recently-released LP "Oceania" debuted on Billboard's Top 10 and the Pumpkins will arrive in Seoul after gigs in the Philippines and Japan.

More recent arrivals will also be displaying their talents. Gotye, whose real name is Wouter De Backer, found fame with his tune "Somebody That I Used to Know." That little ditty is closing in on 300 million YouTube views. But the songs you've probably never heard are some of his better stuff.

With the success of their hit "Pumped Up Kicks," Foster the People have put together an aggressive touring schedule to grow their fan base (and move beyond the aforementioned song).

This upbeat pop-rock band produces an excellent live show with unrelenting energy. Each song will have your foot tapping from beginning to end.

## The bands you should get to know

Don't miss Glen Check. Citing bands of the 70's and 80's as influences, these synth rockers have a sound that is part-Killers and part-MGMT. A rock band fused with electronica, they produce both dance and rock hits. We suggest "Disco Elevator."

Another band flying under the radar is Idiotape. These electronic jammers feature a more clubby sound than you're used to hearing at a rock festival.

They are new and young and out to prove themselves. Their 2011 performance at Global Gathering Korea earned them the label No. 1 Local Live Act — winning them international attention. In 2011, Idiotape were featured at the U.S.'s SXSW festival and Japan's Summer Sonic. Look up "Even Floor."

If you haven't heard of the English indie rockers The Vaccines, get yourself onto YouTube immediately. They recently formed in 2010 and have already achieved moderate fame. Influenced by the 80's New York punk scene, they have put together a familiar-but-original sound. With two albums to date and a shit-load of awards, they are just coming into their own. A recommended song is "Post Break-Up Sex."

Super!Sonic has done an excellent job mixing familiar music and bands you'll wish you had heard of sooner — all across a range of genres.

Two stages will separate rock fans from those more inclined to dance.

The Super Stage will showcase the Smashing Pumpkins on the first day and then New Order, Tears for Fears, Foster the People and The Vaccines on the second day.

The Sonic Stage will have performances from the electronica and synth side.

Day one will feature Idiotape and Soulwax, while day two will showcase Gotye.

A two-day urban music festival featuring some of the most popular touring bands in the world. What's not to be excited about?



### Tears for Fears
This is another long-time favorite hailing from the U.K. Korea is the third and last stop on their Asian tour, after Japan and the Philippines.



### Goonamguayeoridingstella
This band bucks the K-pop trend completely, instead opting for a diverse sound that includes psychedelic rock to Indian sounds and trip-hop.



### New Order
They aren't new anymore, but they're just as good now as they were in 1985. This will be their first time in Korea. The band reunited last year with Gillian Gilbert returning to the mix and Tom Chapman on bass.



국텐단체

This upbeat pop-rock band produces an excellent live show with unrelenting energy. Each song will have your foot tapping from beginning to end.



# Post the Pic

Super!Sonic 2012
**Aug. 14-15**





## Korean Debut

**The feel-good success story of 2010, Mark Foster went from jingle writer to rock star almost overnight when his track "Pumped up Kicks" went viral.** Foster the People will hit the stage at the Super!Sonic festival on Aug. 15.

# FOSTER THE PEOPLE





# DISCO LIBERATION

## Post-disco missionary Das Moth to play in Itaewon, Seoul

**Interview by** Zach McCullough

Timothy Sullivan, a.k.a. Das Moth, lives in Tokyo where — for the last three years — he's been a resident, lover of disco and fine malt whiskey, and sought-after DJ. In addition to releasing an EP on Cut Copy's label, Cutters Records, and being a regular world traveler, Sullivan, from South Wales in Australia, has found time to join the guest-mix roster with famed fashion force Oki-Ni.

Das Moth will be playing at Globe Lounge in Itaewon on Aug. 18 with The Weekend.

**Groove Korea: For how long have you been making music?**

**Das Moth:** I've been playing instruments since I was about 12 years old. My first recording was a home recording of the garage punk band I was in at the age of 14.

**How did you make the transition from punk music to disco?**

Music is a strong feeling. At a young age, punk and metal were very influential on me. More often than not I find myself listening to my favorite albums from when I was 15, 16 in between the records I've bought recently. I don't know what it is with the progression from punk to disco. It seemed completely normal for me. Not forgetting where you came from is the important part of the journey.

**When did you move to Tokyo? What prompted the move from Australia and what types of things keep you in that city?**

I moved to Tokyo in July 2009. I'm currently living in Shibuya. I've always been fascinated by the Japanese culture/history. In 2007 Damn Arms — my old band — had a four-date tour of Japan. From the moment I landed there I knew it was going to be a special trip. The shows were amazing; the people were incredible. It really made an impact on me. In 2008 I returned for a DJ tour. When I was leaving I decided I wanted to spend some serious time in Japan. I packed up and sold everything I had in Australia and got on the plane. I see something new in Tokyo every day. My friends are beautiful and it's opened my mind to a lot of things. I didn't think I would live there for so long. Now it's been three years.

**What is Oki-Ni for those that may not know? Will you talk about the mix you made for them? I'm assuming it was a big deal.**

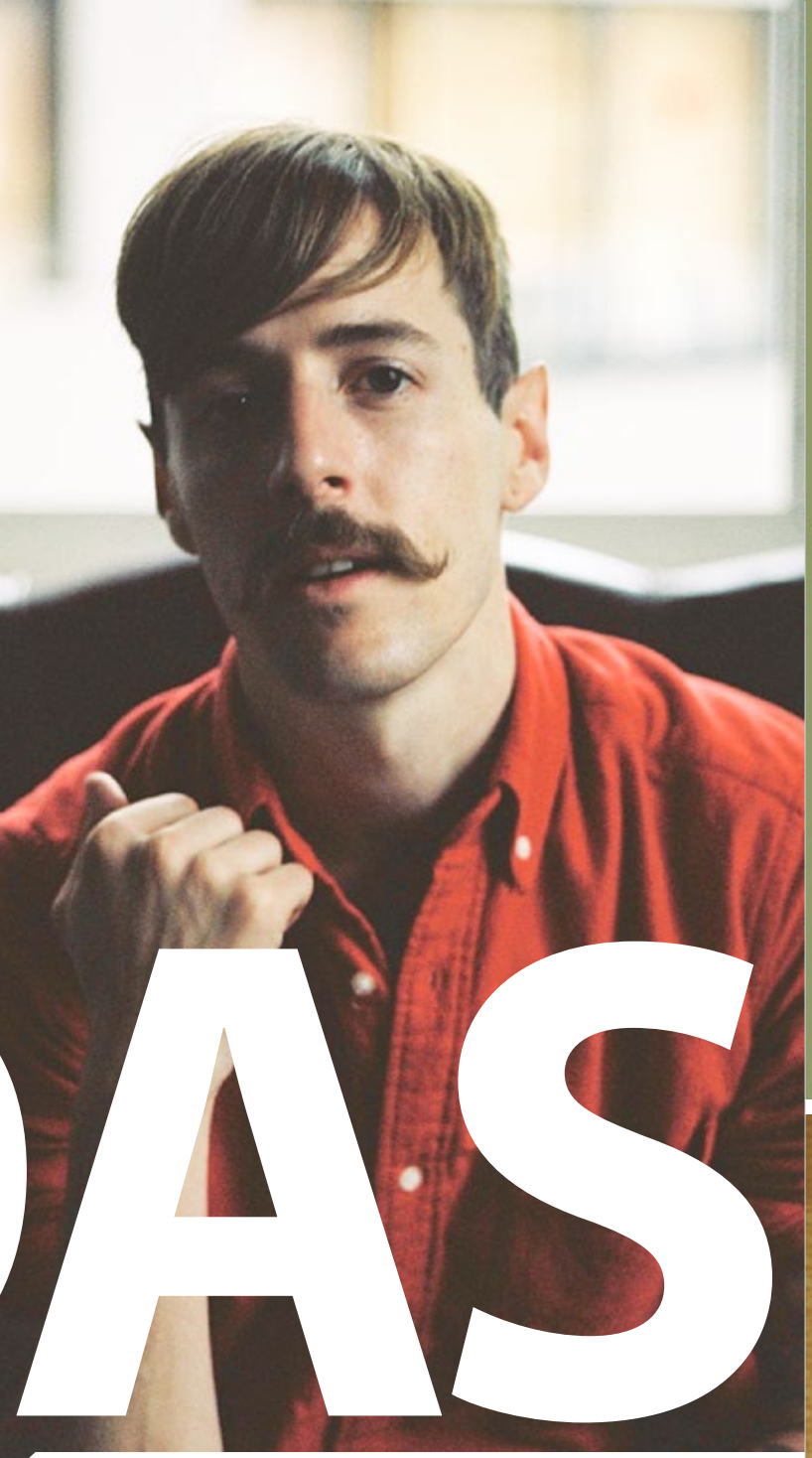
Oki-Ni is a boutique select clothing store from London. They have a big connection to music, too. I've been a huge fan of their mix series for years now. It was a big deal for me (laughs). They've had really influential artists do mixes in the past — Greg Wilson, Bill Brewster, Andrew Weatherall, Simiam Mobile Disco, Soul Clap, Tensnake, Dam Funk, Jacques Renault — just to name a few! So I was really excited when I was asked to do one. The mix is called, "High Fives & Yamazaki Whiskey."

> "I packed up and sold everything I had in Australia and got on the plane. I see something new in Tokyo every day. My friends are beautiful and it's opened my mind to a lot of things. I didn't think I would live there for so long."
>
> — Das Moth





**Show info** For more information on his show at Globe Lounge in Itaewon, go to www.facebook.com/dancetilyouredead.



# DAS

"From the moment I landed there I knew it was going to be a special trip. The shows were amazing; the people were incredible. It really made an impact on me."

— Das Moth








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**What is Yamazaki whiskey and what does it have to do with high-fives?**

Yamazaki is a single-malt whiskey made by Suntory. In mathematical terms: Yamazaki's on the rocks + good tunes = high fives!

**Damn Arms experienced a lot of success and did a lot of touring with a lot of people. How long were you together, and did you guys just decide it was time to move on or was there something more specific that split up the band?**

Not entirely sure of how long we were together. I think around three-and-a-half years. We toured a lot. So we decided to take a break from that and work on new music, because we were burning ourselves out from playing the older ones over and over again. The enjoyment was leaving us.

We worked on a bunch of new songs, even recorded them. But they never saw the light of day. During that time Ben (guitar) started playing with Cut Copy and Simon (drummer) started playing with Lost Valentinos. That turned from filling in to being more permanent. Yama (synth/vocals) and I tried to keep the fire burning. We released one more 12" then put Damn Arms to sleep. I'm super proud of what we did.

**I read something funny about you being a nanny, a.k.a. a "manny," among other things. Can you give us a little back story on that?**

I've been a "manny" for years now. The kids keep me sane. At their young age, they are honest and it's nice to be around. I've done the typical café work. The jobs that let me travel are always good.

**We're very excited about you coming to Korea. Will this be your first time here?**

Yep. It's my first trip to Korea. I'm super excited, too. Actually coming to Seoul a few days early to see the city. Touring usually doesn't let this happen because you're on a strict timeframe.

**Something you've heard about Korea a lot is …?**

Living in Tokyo, I hear a lot of K-pop music playing when I'm walking the streets.

**What inspires your music outside of music itself?**

Romance, reading, taking photos and my friends.

**What have you been playing out a lot?**

Candi Staton – When You Wake Up Tomorrow
Goody Goody – It Looks Like Love (Chida Edit)
Tom Trago – What You Do (Mr Fingers Dub)
The Backwoods – Breakthrough (DJ Kaos Sleazy Mix)

**A song that's so bad it's good is …?**

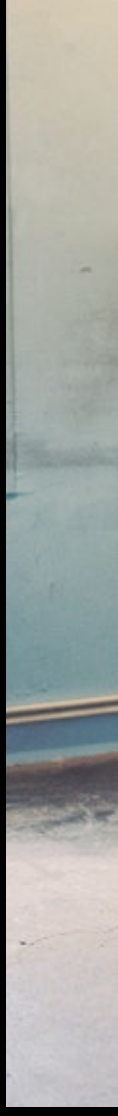
Ne-yo – Closer.

**I'm going to go out on a limb and say that you love to dance. Can you describe your signature dance move, or the one you are most likely to be caught doing at 4 a.m.?**

It may be surprising, but I actually don't dance that much. Does depend on the amount of drinks I've had. I do like to clap, though. I tend to have a shuffle behind the decks while I'm playing. At 4 a.m., I'm usually the DJ (laughs).

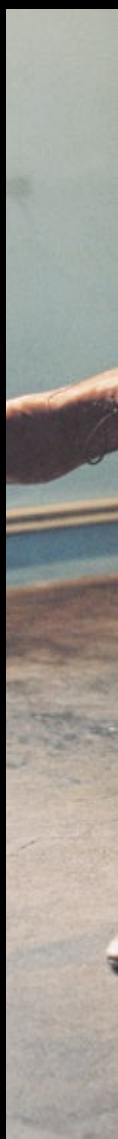
**And lastly, what would you like to leave Korea with?**

New friends and good memories.



# DAS MOTH

> "It may be surprising, but I actually don't dance that much. Does depend on the amount of drinks I've had. I do like to clap, though."
>
> **— Das Moth**








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유즈드 카세트 ☆ Used Cassettes
아이러닉 휴 ☆ Ironic Hue
화난 곰 ☆ Angry Bear
노 리스펙트 포 뷰티 ☆ No Respect for Beauty
러브 엑스테레오 ☆ Love X Stereo
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# The state of post-rock in Korea

4 bands worth catching this summer

**By** Alex Sutcliffe / **Photos** courtesy of bands

Post-rock in Korea has undergone quite a transformation in the last year or so. After the success of local acts Apollo 18 and Frenzy in circles outside the Korean underground, eyes are set on Hongdae and beyond to see what other gems lurk in the shadows. For someone who doesn't speak Korean, discovering and unearthing these bearers of new music is hard work.

So we've done the work for you. This month, Groove Korea reveals some of the most relevant and recent developments in Korea's post-rock scene.



Merging traditional Korean instrumentation with a penchant for the avant, experimental side of music has paid off to no end for Jambinai.

**Jambinai**

The more experimental oeuvre of post-rock is championed by Jambinai. Merging traditional Korean instrumentation with a penchant for the avant, experimental side of music has paid off to no end for Jambinai, who released their album "Différance" to underground critical acclaim back in February.

Characterized by lengthy refrains and explosive crescendos, Jambinai have as much in common with fellow countrymen Frenzy as they do with the post-metal euphoria of Neurosis. The sound drifts from delicate melodies of traditional folk into jarring, obtuse beats and reverb-soaked walls of feedback.

The band caters towards a more aggressive niche of music than we have come to expect, but don't let this sway you from hunting out their material. The finesse with which they incorporate the piri, haegeum and geomungo into a very Western framework of sound is captivating. "Différance" is available from GMC records. Go to http://cafe.daum.net/jambinai.

This month, Groove Korea reveals some of the most relevant and recent developments in Korea's post-rock scene. Check www.groovekorea.com. We will post show details as they become available.

The occasional vocal lullaby by Sunmi floats above the din of feedback and the drums reel off on rhythm-seeking tangents.

**Dogstar**

Those looking for something dirtier would do well to try Dogstar.

My first introduction to Dogstar involved a threadbare basement bar somewhere in Daejeon. It was at the peak of monsoon season. Spilled liquor, stale smoke and sweat mixed with the tremolo riffing of guitars and the clatter of drums.

This Daegu-based act is more basic and DIY than any other band on this list, sounding like a noise-rock band playing Spiderland covers. The riffs are minimal, repetitive and recurring. The occasional vocal lullaby by Sunmi floats above the din of feedback and the drums reel off on rhythm-seeking tangents. A heavy math/noise-rock influence lingers over the band's sound and marries an appreciation for the music of Slint. It is hard not to fall under their spell.

"Hello, Cranky Dear" can be streamed on Bandcamp and Facebook. Go to http://dogstar21219.bandcamp.com.



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> You'd be hard pressed to find another project on this peninsula that refines their craft quite like Ninaian.

**Ninaian**

Ninaian eschews the driving, climactic post-rock that Apollo 18 and No Respect for Beauty are forging here in Korea in favor of a path less traveled. On "For a Little Cruise," Ninaian delivers a blissed-out, serene journey replete with haunting melodies and an abundance of melancholy.

Borrowing from Boards of Canada and The Album Leaf alike, the electronic atmosphere is quick to reveal hidden pianos or unending guitar loops. Occasionally a shoegaze or ambient sound reveals an appreciation for My Bloody Valentine or Mogwai.

You'd be hard pressed to find another project on this peninsula that refines their craft quite like Ninaian. With a second album in the works with a hopeful early 2013 release date set, now is the perfect opportunity to get your hands on "For a Little Cruise," Ninaian's 2010 debut. Go to http://ninaian.com.

After the success of local acts Apollo 18 and Frenzy in circles outside the Korean underground, eyes are set on Hongdae and beyond to see what other gems lurk in the shadows.

> This Seoul-based outfit has a knack for creating full-bodied melodies and long, reflective passages of melancholy allure.

**No Respect for Beauty**

Taking cues from the band *Frenzy and Glittering Darkness*, *Fall* comes No Respect for Beauty. Easily the most traditional act of the three, this Seoul-based outfit, which opened for Pg.lost on their nationwide tour back in April, has a knack for creating full-bodied melodies and long, reflective passages of melancholy allure.

It is easy to get frustrated and bored with this particular strain of post-rock, having seen so many bands fall into the same clichéd refrains and patterns laid down years before them by bands like Mono and Explosions in the Sky, the template having since become stale. Luckily, No Respect for Beauty avoids the copy-paste mechanism with an empowering take on this style.

There are plenty of layers and loops on guitar as one lead wrestles its way to the climax, cymbals splash for the duration and the bass is given a weighty production that allows it to reach new depths.

No Respect for Beauty's recently released debut album, "Why Perish," is available through Bandcamp and Facebook. Go to www.facebook.com/NoRespectforBeauty.



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# Rock out on Rockdo

## Free concert on Seoul's floating island

**By** Groove Staff



Manga Fall will perform at Rockdo in Seoul on Sept. 8.



The Strikers will perform at Rockdo in Seoul on Sept. 8.

Come noon on Sept. 8, the coolest concert in Korea will kick off on Seoul's Yeouido Floating Island with a kick-ass lineup that includes No Respect For Beauty, Love X Stereo, Angry Bear, Magna Fall and more.

It's called Rockdo, and it's free.

Organizing this endeavor was never going to be easy for Exit Six, a smallish local concert promoter. Some bands, managers and clubs didn't want to join or help. It was mostly about money, of course, or them not knowing what Exit Six was. "I guess it looked like a pretty large endeavor for a very small promotions team," a spokesperson said.

Rockdo has been in the works for about a year. Exit Six has been putting on regular shows since last winter to raise money to make sure Rockdo would be free for all in attendance. "Basically, we want to do a few things," said the promoter. "We want to showcase Seoul's best music for free. Concerts these days are expensive. Also, most shows happen in Hongdae. We want to help expand where bands can play and their audience. Some people don't like going to clubs. Rockdo is on the river, during the day. "Another thing Rockdo is focusing on is trying to integrate expat and Korean audiences, as well as expat and Korean bands."

> "We want to help expand where bands can play and their audience. Some people don't like going to clubs. Rockdo is on the river, during the day."

Exit Six has been organizing shows for about two years now. They started with small club festivals before moving on to other showcases. They even helped bring over a band from Basque Country. Something like Rockdo seemed like the next step.

"We love music. Also, it hasn't been done before. Why not?" they explained. There will be a very diverse line up. Hard rock, punk, instrumental, indie rock — mostly bands. They are expecting more than 300 people. Exit Six said concertgoers are not the only ones that will benefit. Bands get more exposure, so "the musicians will hopefully gain a larger audience. Of course we hope their fans come to watch but again, but we also expect people that don't enjoy going to clubs all the time will come out to see these bands in a different setting. Also, some of the foreign audience might see a local band that they have never seen or before and vice versa."

**Performers:**
No Respect For Beauty
Love X Stereo
ynot?
Angry Bear
Magna Fall
Used Cassettes
Vidulgi OoyoO
Ironic Hue
The Strikers
TBC

**Where:** Yeouido Floating Island
**Date:** Sept. 8
**Time:** 12 p.m.-9 p.m.
**Cost:** Free

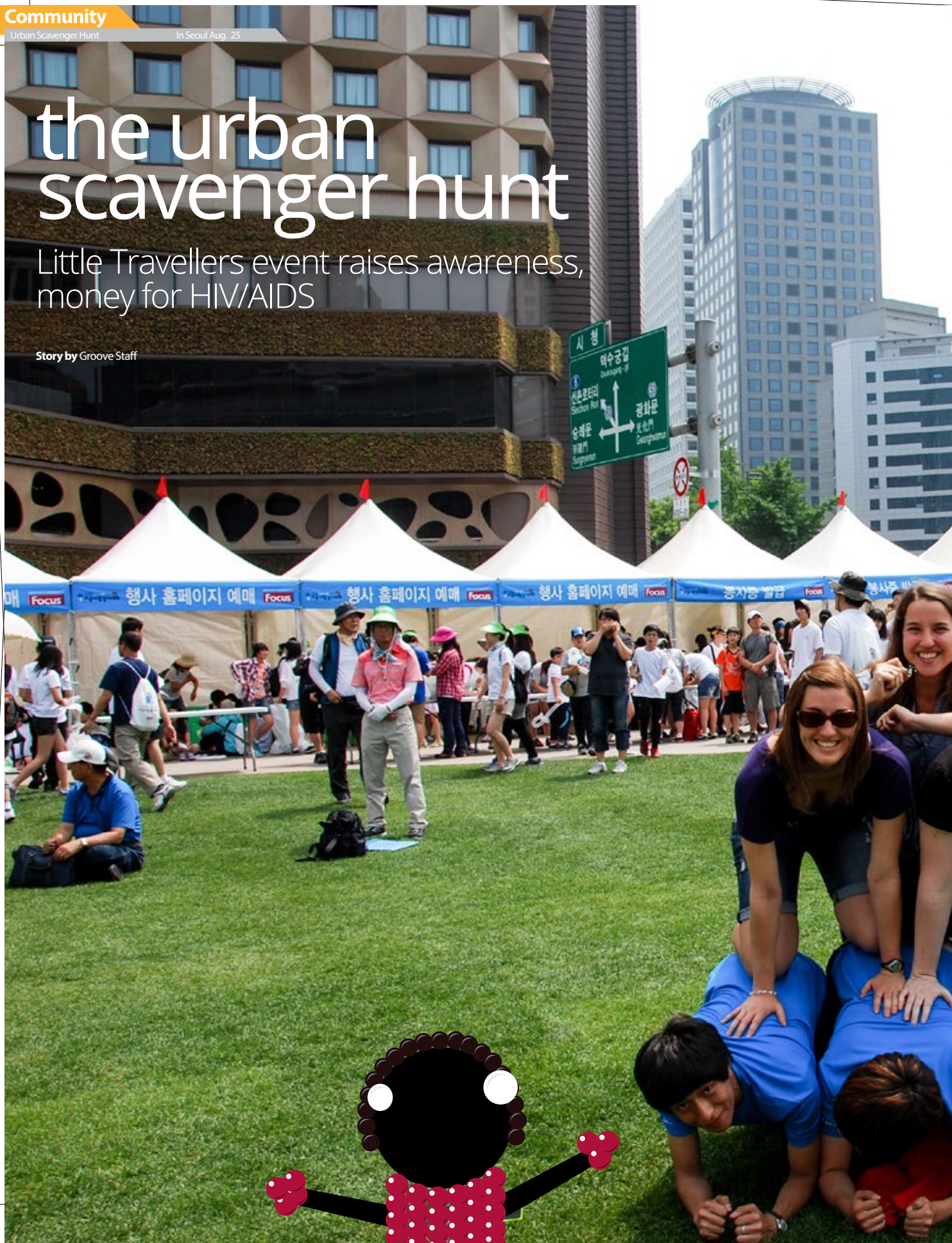
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# the urban scavenger hunt

## Little Travellers event raises awareness, money for HIV/AIDS

**Story by** Groove Staff





When the fourth Little Travellers Photo Scavenger Hunt took place in June, Michael Holman jumped at the opportunity to do something different and raise money for charity.

"We saw it as a great opportunity to run around Seoul, have some friendly competition, and feel good about raising money for a great charity," he said. "Meeting people at a charity event is much different than meeting them anywhere else. Everyone is outgoing, in high spirits and eager to help out. I was able to meet and become great friends with some incredible people."

At the end of August, Little Travellers Korea will unleash participants on the unsuspecting people of Seoul to solve riddles, follow clues and complete tasks. It's an "Amazing Race"-style challenge to raise awareness and money for the Hillcrest AIDS Center in the KwaZulu-Natal province of South Africa.

Jenny Maxwell, a Little Travellers Korea organizer, said the August scavenger hunt has been planned because of the overwhelming response to the June hunt. Maxwell, 28, planned the second, third and fourth scavenger hunts with Ian Chiasson. "We use a combination of fun, education and competitiveness in the hunt," said Maxwell. "There are facts about the organization and the HIV/AIDS awareness campaign that we tell you and you have to remember throughout the hunt in order to advance. Having a good map of Seoul and a T-Money card also helps!"

"We use a combination of fun, education and competitiveness in the hunt. There are facts about the organization and the HIV/AIDS awareness campaign that we tell you and you have to remember throughout the hunt in order to advance. Having a good map of Seoul and a t-money card also helps!"

— Jenny Maxwell, a Little Travellers Korea organizer

For one part of the scavenger hunt, participants are given a riddle, the answer of which is a location in Seoul. They then go to the location and find the volunteer, who will give them their next challenge. Another challenge is a reading exercise sponsored by Groove Korea. Teams will get a list of questions and a copy of Groove to find the answers. Participants will be capped at 15 teams of four people.

# Background

Little Travellers Korea raises money (49 million won to date) and a lot of awareness for the HIV/AIDS epidemic through events and workshops. Another goal is to break down the stigma of HIV/AIDS in modern Korean society so it eventually becomes part of common dialogue. They hand out flyers and free condoms in an effort to make people aware of the dangers of unprotected sex.

Little Travellers is part of the income-generation project at the Hillcrest AIDS Center in South Africa. It helps those in need by getting impoverished women to use their creativity to earn an income.

A Little Traveller is a beautifully handcrafted beaded doll made by the women of the Hillcrest AIDS Center. They are sold through chapters in the United Kingdom, United States, Canada, Australia and Korea.

Paula Thomson, the craft coordinator at Hillcrest, founded it in 2007. She made the prototypes and the women at the center started making them after that.

They were originally just sold at flea markets and schools in the Hillcrest area, but they soon found themselves with orders from around the globe.

Craig Kulyk founded Little Travellers Korea in 2007. After he visited Canada and met with the founder of the Canadian chapter, Kulyk figured he could start something in Korea. He brought some dolls back with him.

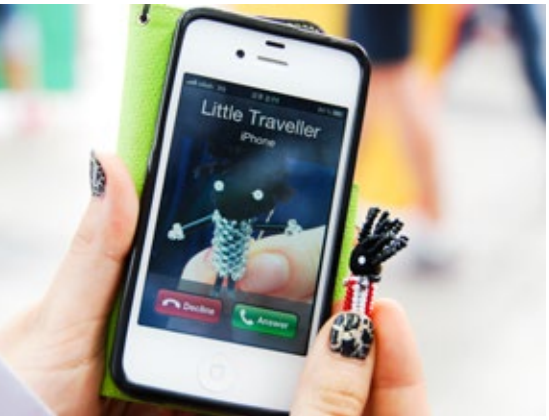
To raise money, they also host an event called Rubber Seoul. The first event was held in 2008, and is now in its fifth year.

"Little Travellers is important as it provides great volunteer opportunities in Korea, especially at our Rubber Seoul event, for both Koreans and expats to get involved in something global," said Maxwell.

"I love the photo scavenger hunt," Maxwell added. "I'd say it's my favorite event of the year, although Rubber Seoul does come a close second after the success of the past three years and June's massively popular events."

Colin Maheu participated on the team "Colin Is Only Here To Meet Girls" in the June scavenger hunt and said he will return as a volunteer in August.

"I met some fantastic people and I learned more about the fight against AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa," said Maheu. "The organizers wove lots of educational aspects into the event, and that was really great. I also met lots of girls."






**Info**
The entry fee is 15,000 per person (5,000 won for a Little Traveller doll, 5,000 won for after-party food and a 5,000 won donation to Hillcrest AIDS Center). Contact korea@littletravellers.net or look up "Little Travellers Korea" on Facebook.

**After-party**
The after-party takes place at Beer O'Clock in Sinchon. There will be food, drinks and pop quizzes to win prizes. Organizers expect north of 200 people.

**Want to volunteer?**
Little Travellers Korea has volunteer opportunities throughout the year, and especially in December where they need upwards of 100 volunteers for Rubber Seoul. E-mail korea@littletravellers.net.

# Adoptee Solidarity Korea needs your help

## Organization aims to raise money and showcase adoptee talent

**Story by** Kimberly Hyo-Jung Campbell / **Photo courtesy** Haja Center



Innovation, talent and education collide in an upcoming collaboration between activist adoptees and a center for alternative culture in Seoul. Designed as a unique skills-sharing workshop, the event is being held to showcase the wealth of talent among adoptees from various cultural backgrounds living in Seoul and lend financial support to Adoptee Solidarity Korea (ASK), in partnership with Haja Center. While many fundraisers have found success proffering food and drink, this one is modeled trade school and skill-sharing concepts that have taken root in the United States.

At the event, which will take place on Aug. 25 from 2 to 6 p.m. in Seoul, participants can freely move between workshops offered simultaneously at the newly-renovated Haja Creative Hub, part of the Seoul Youth Factory for Alternative Culture located in Yeongdeungpo-gu. The multipurpose building houses a full dance studio and coffee shop, in addition to multiple rooms that will be in full force during the Saturday event.

Some attendees might find inner calm during a yoga session, while others might glean useful tips learning about business startups in Seoul from successful adoptee entrepreneurs, or activate their inner activist in a talk about the politics of food in Korea. Each workshop will last from 30 minutes to 1 hour and 30 minutes, and all workshops will be led by adoptees.

At the center of the event is ASK, Adoptee Solidarity Korea, founded in 2004 by a group of like-minded adult adoptees living in Seoul to raise awareness about, and effect change in, Korea's intercountry adoption system and related policy. Despite being a top-15 world economy and having one of the lowest birthrates in the world, Korea still sent nearly 1,000 children abroad for adoption last year.

The group believes that the country should prioritize alternatives to adoption, such as stronger support for single mothers and families who want to keep their children, and hopes this will be accomplished through a combination of social and legal reforms. Another part of its mission is to advocate for adoptees and their rights, particularly as that pertains to access to information about their birth families.

"ASK is the first politically minded organization of adoptees in Korea," said Kim Stoker, ASK's representative. "By having this kind of fundraiser, we hope to highlight some of the community building aspects of our group."

ASK is currently focused on advocacy, including overseeing the implementation of a landmark revision to Korea's adoption law, which was passed last July and is set to go into effect next month, and the continuation of a series of forums addressing the mental health needs of adoptees who have returned to Korea.

For the fundraiser, the organization is partnering with the Haja Creative Hub, which is currently in the midst of a summer school program that aims to foster alternative and creative learning processes for students in order to initiate positive change on a personal and local level.

"The Haja Center has always been a place where cultural and social projects have been essential," said Mette Nørnberg Pedersen, a project coordinator for Haja Hub and a part of Haja Center's planning division. "Haja has been and is still a place with a huge drive for societal change, so ASK's work is relevant for us, because adoption is connected to many different issues in Korea, such as gender inequality, sex education, social welfare, capitalism, children's rights, human rights, and single mothers or single parents."

A Danish adoptee herself, Nørnberg Pedersen is also an ASK steering committee member, and says she was encouraged by Haja colleagues to collaborate with members of the Korean diaspora on programming initiatives for the center. She said she hopes that participants will channel creativity and inspiration at the workshop.

> "I hope the participants will get new inspiration that they draw on in the afterwards. Hopefully, they can become inspired to share their own passions, hobbies and professional skills in the future and make new connections."
>
> -- Mette Nørnberg Pedersen, Haja Hub Project Coordinator

"I hope the participants will get new inspiration that they draw on in the afterwards," she said. "Hopefully, they can become inspired to share their own passions, hobbies and professional skills in the future and make new connections."

Also connected to the event is the Free the Girls campaign, which collects bras to be resold by women rescued from sex trafficking. Donations are encouraged and will be collected on site throughout the day.

**Event information**
**Date/time:** Aug. 25 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
**Location:** Haja Creative Hub
**Directions:** Yeongdeungpo Market Station, Line 5, exit 1, or Yeongdeungpo Office Station, Lines 2 and 5, exit 4

Admission is 10,000 won, or free for ASK members – the annual membership fee is 20,000 won.
For more information, visit adopteesolidarity.org or 2010.haja.net.

# The consequences of 'a few extra pounds'

## Why you shouldn't throw caution to the wind

Of course, the combination of weight loss and exercise is superior for your health. But even if you haven't succeeded in your weight loss goals, at least you can protect your health by maintaining what's already there.

**By** Tyson DeWees / **Illustration by** Adela Ordoñez



Korea is an easy place to throw caution to the wind when it comes to too much to eat and drink. Crazy work hours, stress from immersing into a new culture, lots of new friends and places to explore and maybe pressure to have soju with the boss: It can all lead to unhealthy choices.

Hey, it's a few extra pounds — what's the big deal? You can always make time to exercise and eat right when work eases up. Then you're called in for a split shift. It can be tough to fit in exercise on the weekends, with all the exciting excursions beckoning. We all have excuses. But what are the actual consequences of a few extra pounds?

It is obvious that obesity, the condition of being unhealthily overweight, is a huge problem, and the occurrence of obesity-related illnesses is at an all-time high. The International Journal of Obesity, the American Obesity Association and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention all agree: Being overweight is serious and obesity in particular is dangerous. Being overweight or obese puts an individual at an increased risk of developing many illnesses, including gallbladder disease, heart disease, hypertension (high blood pressure), dyslipidemia (high cholesterol), osteoarthritis, type-2 diabetes, stroke, sleep apnea and even cancer.

Cardiovascular disease is commonly caused by being overweight. The American Heart Association recently dubbed obesity as a leading cause of heart attacks. Arthritis, including osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis, is especially common among the overweight and obese.

There are more unexpected effects of being overweight, too; some are more minor than others. For instance, did you know that you are more likely to develop carpal tunnel syndrome if you have a severe weight problem? In fact, AOA (American Obesity Association) found that 70 percent of carpal tunnel syndrome sufferers were overweight. Other effects on health include gout, an impaired immune system, respiratory problems, difficulty healing, reproductive disorders that cause infertility, liver disease, back pain, gynecological complications, pancreatitis and incontinence. Studies have even found that an obese mother is at an increased risk for a difficult pregnancy and the delivery of her newborn.

Perhaps the most alarming health effect is cancer. Obese and even overweight persons are more likely to be diagnosed with cancer of the breast, esophagus, colon, uterus and kidney.

Now that we've covered the dangers of obesity and being overweight, here's the good news: Fitness can protect your heart, even if you have already put on those extra pounds.

According to a study published in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology, Dr. Duck-chul Lee of the Arnold School of Public Health showed that exercising and getting fit may protect your heart. Dr. Lee was one of the first to examine how a change in fitness or fatness (or both) affects development of hypertension, high cholesterol and metabolic syndrome, a condition defined by a large waistline, high triglycerides, low high-density lipoprotein cholesterol, high blood sugar while fasting and high blood pressure. "Although improving fitness and losing fatness is ideally the best combination, our study also shows that as long as individuals maintain their fitness and fatness levels, which is less challenging, they are not likely to be at higher risk of developing cardiovascular disease risk factors," said Lee, a post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Exercise Science.

Of course, the combination of weight loss and exercise is superior for your health. But even if you haven't succeeded in your weight loss goals, at least you can protect your health by maintaining what's already there. So don't give up!

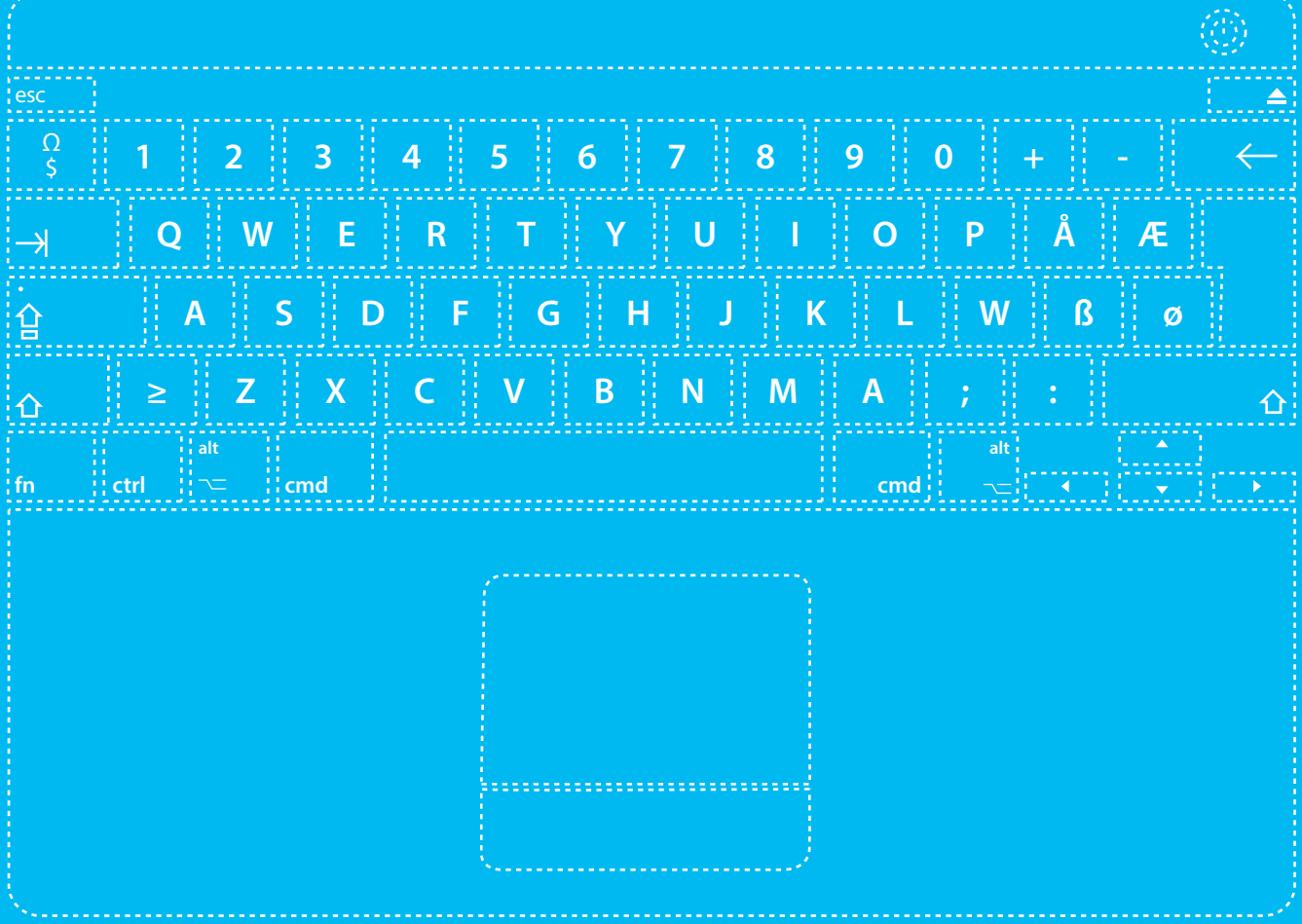
Tyson DeWees is director of fitness at Body & Seoul Martial Arts and Fitness Center. He can be reached at seoulmartialarts@gmail.com. — Ed.

# Into the Groove

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GROOVE
Korea's N.1 english magazine

# At the box office

## AUGUST RELEASES

**By** Dean Crawford

## Total Recall

Directed by Len Wiseman




*August* **15** ***Action - Adventure*** *118 Minutes*

P R E V I E W

To date, movie adaptations based on the literary works of Philip K. Dick have had mixed success. On one hand you have Ridley Scott's "Blade Runner" and Steven Spielberg's "Minority Report." Two films that present a dystopian future and perfectly capture Dick's central themes of paranoia and what it means to be human.

Then on the other hand you have "Paycheck" and "Next." Not necessarily bad films, but the finished products differed greatly from the original stories and felt like lower budget, run-of-the-mill sci-fi flicks.

Then, sitting somewhere in the middle is Paul Verhoeven's "Total Recall." A classic film, but it contained a few too many explosions and Arnie one-liners, straying too far from the original story to be considered a Philip K. Dick classic. Considering it's now been over 20 years since its release, the time has come for the unwanted modern-day remake.

Inspired by the Philip K. Dick short story "We Can Remember It for You Wholesale," "Total Recall" is the story of ordinary factory worker Douglas Quaid, played by Colin Farrell.

Despite having a beautiful wife, Kate Beckinsale, he desires an exciting life that he can never have. That is until he makes a trip to Rekall, a company that can implant you with fake memories. After the procedure goes terribly wrong, WelcomeToRecall.com tells us "the line between fantasy and reality gets blurred and the fate of his world hangs in the balance as Quaid discovers his true identity, his true love, and his true fate."

If you have seen the original, you will notice how similar they both sound. But the one major difference in this film will be that Quaid will not visit Mars. "Sacrilege!" many fans have cried, but it is worth pointing out that in the original Dick story, Quaid did not go to Mars either. This detail was added by Verhoeven.

That's not to say Len Wiseman's version is going to be any more faithful. As Colin Farrell told CinemaBlend.com, there's "a kind of omnipresent sense of power and corruption, and that plays into ours as well, but it's not nearly as dark as the original."

While some fans may see it as an insult to remake a film that is already seen as a classic, after recently re-watching the original "Total Recall," which seemed cheesy and dated, I think it's not a bad idea. Technology can only help a new version – provided that the main focus of the film is the story, of course.

And with the great additions to the cast including Bill Nighy and in particular Bryan Cranston, I can't wait to see this version, which is released in Korea on the 15th this month.

## Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter

Directed by Timur Bekmambetov




*August* **15** ***Action - Fantasy*** *105 Minutes*

P R E V I E W

The great Abraham Lincoln is renowned for many heroic feats. He was a strong leader who played a major role in abolishing slavery and he united his country at a pivotal moment in its history. He also hunted and killed vampires. Well, maybe not in real life, but he did according to Seth Grahame-Smith's novel "Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter," which has been brought to the big screen by producer Tim Burton and director Timur Bekmambetov, the visionary director of "Wanted" and the excellent "Day Watch/Night Watch" series.

The film begins in 1818 in the home of a young Abraham Lincoln. After Lincoln stands up for a young slave boy, a plantation owner seeks revenge and has a hand in the death of Lincoln's mother. When he is older, he seeks vengeance only to find out the plantation owner is not human. It is here that Lincoln learns about vampires and their intention to take over the United States of America. He then makes the decision to dedicate his life to hunting down vampires and slaying every one he can find while at the same time shaping the future of his nation. Benjamin Walker plays Abraham Lincoln, Dominic Cooper is his mentor Henry Sturgess and Rufus Sewell plays the leader of the vampires, Adam.

After the success of the "Twilight" saga, it seemed vampires were everywhere and writers were finding ways to cash in on this phenomenon. But to think that someone actually dreamed up the idea to make Abraham Lincoln an axe-wielding vampire hunter might seem a little, to be quite frank, absurd. However, the novel was released to fairly positive reviews, with the LA Times stating that "a writer who can transform the greatest figure from 19th century American history into the star of an original vampire tale with humor, heart and bite is a rare find indeed."

So, the idea might not be so absurd compared to the reality of how much money the "Twilight" films have actually made considering how bad they are.

The film was released in the U.S. in June and hasn't exactly wowed the critics, with the main complaint aimed at the film's insistence on playing it safe when it comes to some of the larger themes. But then I wouldn't expect a film called "Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter" to be making overtly political references in the first place. And as Andrew O'Hehir of Salon.com rightly states: "Bekmambetov ... stages hilarious, imaginative, almost free-form action sequences like nobody in the business." So if you were a fan of Bekmambetov's "Wanted" or his "Night Watch" series, or are just a fan of seeing vampires being slain, this can be no worse than the next "Twilight" film!

# National Museum of Korea: A cultural complex

## Tours available in English, French, Spanish, Italian

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www.museum.go.kr/ or call (02) 2077-9324.

**Exhibition hours**
Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
Wednesday & Saturday 9 a.m.-9 p.m.
Sunday & holidays 9 a.m.-7 p.m.
Closed on Mondays (except on holiday Mondays)

**Admission fees**
Free to Main Exhibition Hall and the Children's Museum
Separate charge for the Special Exhibition Gallery

**Guided tours**
One-hour guided tours of the permanent collection are available. 10:30-11:30 a.m. / 2:30-3:30 p.m. (English) French/ Spanish/Italian. 10:30-11:30 a.m. on the 2nd Sat of every month (French/Spanish/Italian)

**Visitors' services**
Wheelchairs and strollers are available free of charge. Strollers are reserved for infants and children under 30 months old.





The National Museum of Korea is not just a place where the past and the future come together, but where you can explore the essence of Korean arts and culture. It is expected to reach a milestone this August by attracting its 20 millionth visitor since it opened in 2005, ranking it No. 1 in Asia in terms of attendance. It is ninth worldwide, according to the 2010 Total Art Museums Numbers, which was released by The Art Newspaper.

The National Museum of Korea has 295,550 square meters of floor space on six ground and basement floors. More than 15,000 pieces are displayed in six permanent exhibition sections: Prehistory and Ancient History, Medieval and Early Modern History, Donated Works, Calligraphy and Painting, Asian Art, and Sculpture and Crafts including in International Touring Exhibitions, Special Exhibitions and Children's Museum.

The first floor has artifacts in the Prehistory and Ancient History displays that date back to the earliest evidence of Korean civilization and culture — the Balhae Kingdom. The north section of the floor displays items from Medieval and Early Modern History dating back to the Goryeo and Joseon periods. The second floor is home to the Calligraphy, Painting and Donated Works displays. Each space is named after individual collectors: Lee Hong-kun, Park Byoung-rae, Kim Chong-hak, Park Young-sook, Yu Kang-yul, Choi Young-do, Kaneko Kazushige, Yoo Chang-jong, Hachiuma Tadasu and Iuchi Isao. The Calligraphy and Painting section allows visitors to appreciate masterful items of Korean traditional painting, Buddhist painting and calligraphy.

The world's finest specimens of Buddhist sculpture, metal arts and ceramics are displayed in the Sculpture and Crafts section on the third floor, together with artwork and cultural items from China, Japan and Central Asia. Unique aspects of their respective cultures are featured in the Asian Art section.

The Special Exhibition area highlights themed artwork and cultures. The National Museum of Korea also displays artwork and stone relics that cannot be easily accommodated in the Outdoor Exhibitions section, which functions as a flourishing garden for the Museum.

There are more than a dozen designated Korean National Treasures, including the Great Bell of Bosingak (Korean National Treasure No. 2), which was moved into the Outdoor Exhibitions area in 1986.

The National Museum of Korea strives to help visitors with better services and communication. The museum has a mobile application for the hearing-impaired that allows a user to learn about artifacts in sign language. Mobile information services are available for smartphone users. There is also an iPad app. The museum recently launched a Virtual Museum Tour through Naver, Korea's largest portal website, allowing people to tour the entire museum online.

The National Museum of Korea maintains an active presence on social network sites such as Facebook (nmk.seoul.korea), Twitter (@the_nmk), Me2Day, and on blogs.

Its renovated restaurant, café and the "Yong" theatre are more reasons to visit.



# THEATER OPENS STAGE FOR ALL

Two chances to see, be involved in developing fresh new work with Seoul artists in August

**Story & Photo by** Liam Mitchinson



It's not often that audience members, whether it be in music, theatre, dance or another discipline, get a chance to directly interact and give an opinion on what they see on stage. This breaking of the "fourth wall" is often thought of as taboo and in some ways detrimental to artistic development.

Now there are two chances for you to become more involved. "There is just so much talent here from such a wide variety of cultural backgrounds," said Desiree Munro, the Artistic Director of Probationary Theatre Company and co-owner of the White Box Theatre space in Hyochang Park, Seoul. "Seoul really is a melting pot and a playground for artists wanting to create and collaborate with new and interesting people. Likewise the Seoul expat community is a vibrant place for people to see, and be inspired by, fresh and cutting-edge artworks and performances."

In August, those looking for something a little different are in for a treat. The Shorts Show is a chance to aid in the development of new work. The event is essentially an open-stage workshop for performing artists.

The idea is to give artists an opportunity to present up to 20 minutes of new performance and receive feedback from an open-minded audience. Previous artists from Probationary Theatre's annual Shorts Show events have presented a wide range of acts — from a highly-charged and confrontational multimedia, anti-war one-man show, to a lovably playful piece of Balinese shadow puppetry full of underwater characters with an extensive cast of puppeteers.

The Shorts Show is a chance to aid in the development of new work. The event is essentially an open-stage workshop for performing artists. The idea is to give artists an opportunity to present up to 20 minutes of new performance and receive feedback.

All disciplines of the performing arts are welcome. The Shorts Show will be presented to audience members on Aug. 19 at 4 p.m. at the White Box Theatre.

The second inclusive event in August allows you to cross through the "fourth wall" and become an actor, writer or director. It's called Play in a Day and the basic concept is to create brand-new theatre pieces from empty page to stage in 12 hours. Teams of writers, directors and actors will be assembled at 9 a.m. on Aug. 11 at the White Box Theatre, and will work through the day to write and rehearse a brand new short piece of theatre that will be performed at 8 p.m. that night.

Play in a Day always manages to create performances from the zany to the heartfelt, and occasionally the mind-bending.

This event is a perennial favorite of the Seoulite who is short on time and wants an event long on fun and creativity, and a perfect low-impact chance to try out your artistic stuff in an inclusive environment.

"Seoul really is a melting pot and a playground for artists wanting to create and collaborate with new and interesting people."

## DETAILS:

Writers, directors and actors will be assembled at 9 a.m. on Aug. 11 and will work through the day to write and rehearse a short piece that will be performed at 8 p.m. that night.

## TICKETS:

Tickets for the shorts show and Play in a Day are 10,000 won and can be purchased at the theatre door on the day of the show.
www.probationarytheatre.com

Book review

# ESCAPE FROM CAMP 14

By Rob York

Camp 14, the most notorious of all of North Korea's prison camps, is a place that rewards neither virtuous nor crafty behavior, responds with nightmarish punishments for mistakes major or minor, and trains parents to regard their children as burdens and siblings to view one another as rivals. Many, like Shin Dong-hyuk, are born there when guards allow two prisoners to mate, but only he has escaped the prison, and then succeeded in fleeing the country.

The major difference between "Escape from Camp 14," the story Blaine Harden has written with Shin's help, and "The Aquariums of Pyongyang," Kang Chol-hwan's memoir of the Yodok prison camp, is where they start. Kang, having been born into privilege only to have it taken away when his family fell out of favor with the regime, suffered memories of deprivation along with his hunger and severe punishments. As gut-wrenching as that tale was, the torments Shin saw in Camp 14 exceed those that Kang endured, and until his teen years, he regarded this state of affairs as normal.

Among the nightmares that wake Shin up at night is the thought of what may have happened to his father once the vengeful guards of Camp 14 realized that he had escaped.

This worked to Shin's advantage in a way, as having no sense of loss prevented him from succumbing to despair, despite seeing his mother and brother executed, or having one of his fingers cut off for dropping a sewing machine. But now Shin remains tortured, not only by the punishments he suffered, but by his mother's death, his father's unknown fate in the camp, and his roles in both.

Long-time journalist Harden met Shin years ago and made him the subject of a feature story, later choosing to expand upon it as the subject of this book. In the process, Shin revealed that he bore responsibility for his mother and brother's failed escape attempt, something he had neither explained in Harden's original story nor in his own Korean-language memoir. He also expounded upon the efforts of his father — someone he had little interaction with early in life — to get closer to Shin following the executions, only to be rebuffed.

Among the nightmares that wake Shin up at night is the thought of what may have happened to his father once the vengeful guards of Camp 14 realized that he had escaped. Furthermore, he received no reward for revealing his mother's escape plans; the guard he ratted to took all credit for the discovery, and Shin was literally roasted over an open fire to pry more information from him. Had he, as he had originally vowed, not revealed their plans, he would likely still have been tortured at the time, but would not still be undergoing torment from his own guilt.

"Escape" exceeds "Aquariums" in their primary purposes: as stories of North Korea's atrocities and a call to action against them. In some ways it exceeds Barbara Demick's "Nothing to Envy" — a point Demick concedes on the back of the book's jacket — although her book captured more diverse points of view than this one. That book primarily made one sympathetic to those who have escaped the North and are doing their best in the South, making more people want to help them. This one seems more determined to make sure fewer people have to survive the evils of the Kim clan. How that can be done, though, may not be much clearer after reading this.

The book ends with Shin's travels, giving speeches meant to horrify audiences into awareness of what is going in the North. Short of hearing him speak personally, this book is the most vivid call to action on North Korean human rights you'll ever experience.




**Escape from Camp 14**
**By Blaine Harden**

Viking Books
224 pp
Available at What the Book? in Itaewon



# CAPTURING KOREA

## Geoje-do

Everyone loves beautiful pictures. Groove Korea is teaming up with the Seoul Photo Club to give readers tips on where to get the best snaps on the peninsula. Our photographers will share tips on how and where they shoot. To compete in the Photo Challenge and win great prizes from Groove Korea, head on over to the Seoul Photo Club on Flickr:

**— flickr.com/groups/seoulphotoclub**

**Interview by** Dylan Goldby / **Photos by** Greg Samborski





**Under the Carrousel**

**Lens:** 11mm
**Shutter:** 1/15
**Aperture:** f / 6.3
**Processing:** Blood splatter + dodge and burn in Photoshop
**Notes:** According to Wikipedia Okpo Land was closed in 1999 after a duck-themed ride claimed its second life, that of a young girl
**Tip:** Venture out of your comfort zone





**Off Road on Geoje-do**

**Lens:** 11mm
**Shutter:** 1/250
**Aperture:** f / 8
**Processing:** Black and white
**Notes:** Street motorcyclists flock to Geoje-do during riding season. Mountain biking is also popular. I never saw another dirt biker
**Tip:** Get off the beaten track





**Geoje-do Fixed Link Bridge**

**Lens:** 75
**Shutter:** 1/15
**Aperture:** f / 16
**Processing:** Removal of boats in Photoshop.
**Notes:** A section of the new record-breaking bridge that connects Geoje-do to Busan. Travel time between the two locations was reduced from 3 1/2 hours to 40 minutes
**Tip:** Slow your shutter down to 1/20th of a second to blur head and tail lights

# Capturing Korea: Geoje-do

**Interview by** Dylan Goldby / **Photos by** Greg Samborski

**Groove Korea: Give us a little insight into Greg the photographer, and Greg the man.**

**Greg Samborski:** I bought my first camera at 17, a 35mm Pentax point-and-shoot, while I was (in the Canadian Armed Forces) in Ottawa tasking as a ceremonial guard. When not standing at attention on our Parliament's lawn roasting to death, I was documenting the aspects of army life that I both loved and hated.

That Pentax eventually fizzled out in Laos due to the humidity, only halfway into my six-month backpacking trip around Southeast Asia.

**You spent quite a while living on Geoje-do; tell us a little about the place.**

I lived in Geojo-do for just over two years. During that time, I worked at Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering Co., Ltd, the world's second-largest ship manufacturer. It was simply mind-blowing seeing ships four football fields long and 25 stories high being assembled and launched into the ocean.

Due to all the shipbuilding that goes on at DSME and Samsung, Geoje-do is one of the few places outside of Seoul where you can meet foreigners from a broad scope of countries who aren't English teachers. Their professions range anywhere from bar hostess to thermal dynamics specialists.

I miss the stunning coastline, cultural diversity and easy accessibility to foreign goods and cuisine.

**Any general tips for photographing Geoje-do?**

They would be the same tips I'd offer for most any location. For the best light, shoot around sunrise and sunset. Geoje-do looks even better right after some rain. Throw on a polarizing filter if you're shooting mid-day to reduce glare and enhance contrast. Make sure to ask the locals for permission before snapping their pictures. Don't be surprised if permission is denied; I had about a 40 percent success rate. Get off the beaten track.

**What is your favorite time and place on the island to shoot?**

I love fall in Geoje-do, and Korea in general, for both the weather and the light. It's "golden hour" all day long! Okpo Land, the abandoned amusement park, is one of my favorite locations. It is, however, clearly off limits to the public and by trespassing you are risking your safety and trouble with the authorities. If sneaking into condemned amusement parks isn't your thing, there is a ton of beautiful country and coastline to be seen driving around the island, especially on the southern half.

**You shoot quite a variety of subjects, from your family to your drinks and self portraits. What is it that makes you get out there and shoot?**

It doesn't take much to make me run for my camera; a dried out reservoir, homemade bread, a motorcycle ride, my 2-year-old daughter trying to stand and pee like me. What really inspires me is a good concept, especially when there is a challenge, utter bizarreness and/or humor involved. Take for example the photo on the first page of this story, where I stripped down to my boxers at dusk in a creepy abandoned amusement park, and crawled under a decaying carousel.

Often what drives me to shoot is simply the desire to experiment, be it with lighting, new gear or cool stuff I've found in the neighborhood trash pile. I did a Cafri beer product shot using a salvaged steel grate and a water mister. At one point I spent a week smoking cigars and playing with dry ice from Baskin-Robbins trying to get great shots of smoke.

**Online**

If you're interested in seeing more of Greg Samborski's work, or are looking for a photographer, please visit www.gregsamborski.com.

> "I love fall in Geoje-do, and Korea in general, for both the weather and the light. It's "golden hour" all day long."
> — **Greg Samborski**




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# PHOTO CHALLENGE

## This month's winner:



**Chris Backe**
**Location:** Myeongdong, Seoul
**Camera:** Canon 60D
**Lens:** Canon EF 18-135mm
**Shutter Speed:** 1/60
**Aperature:** f/4.0
**Focal Length:** 18mm
**ISO:** 400

**Sponsor: Kasan Camera**
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**(02) 771-5711**

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**www.flickr.com/groups/seoulphotoclub**



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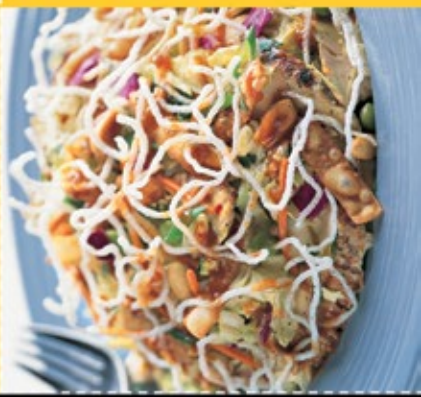
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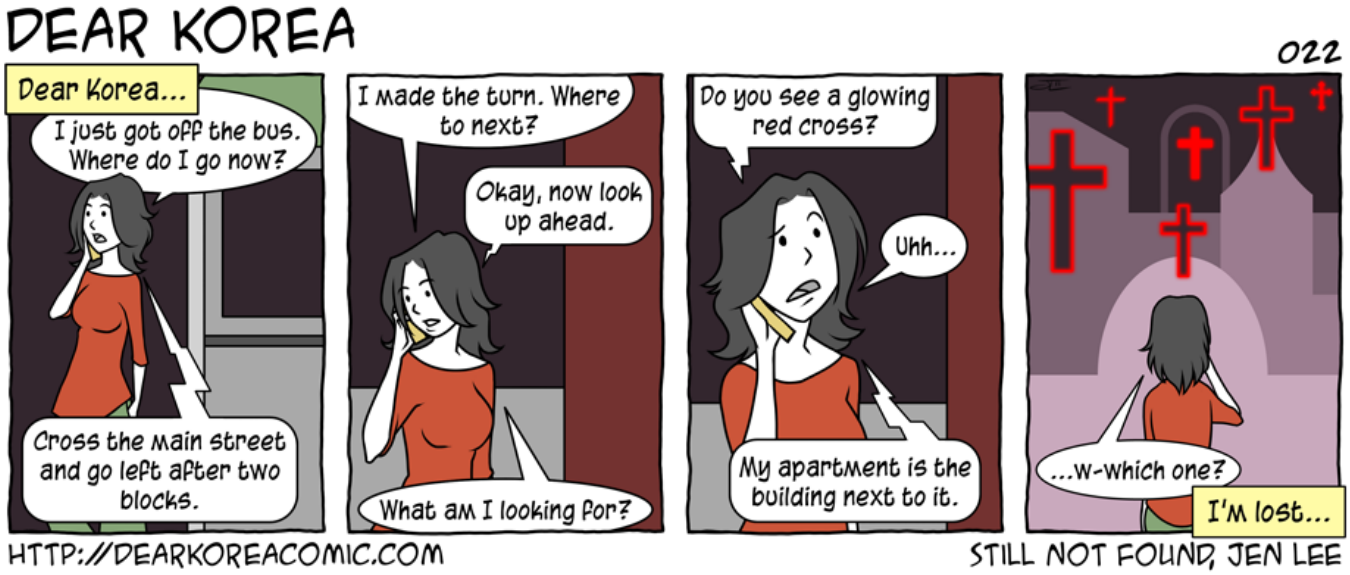
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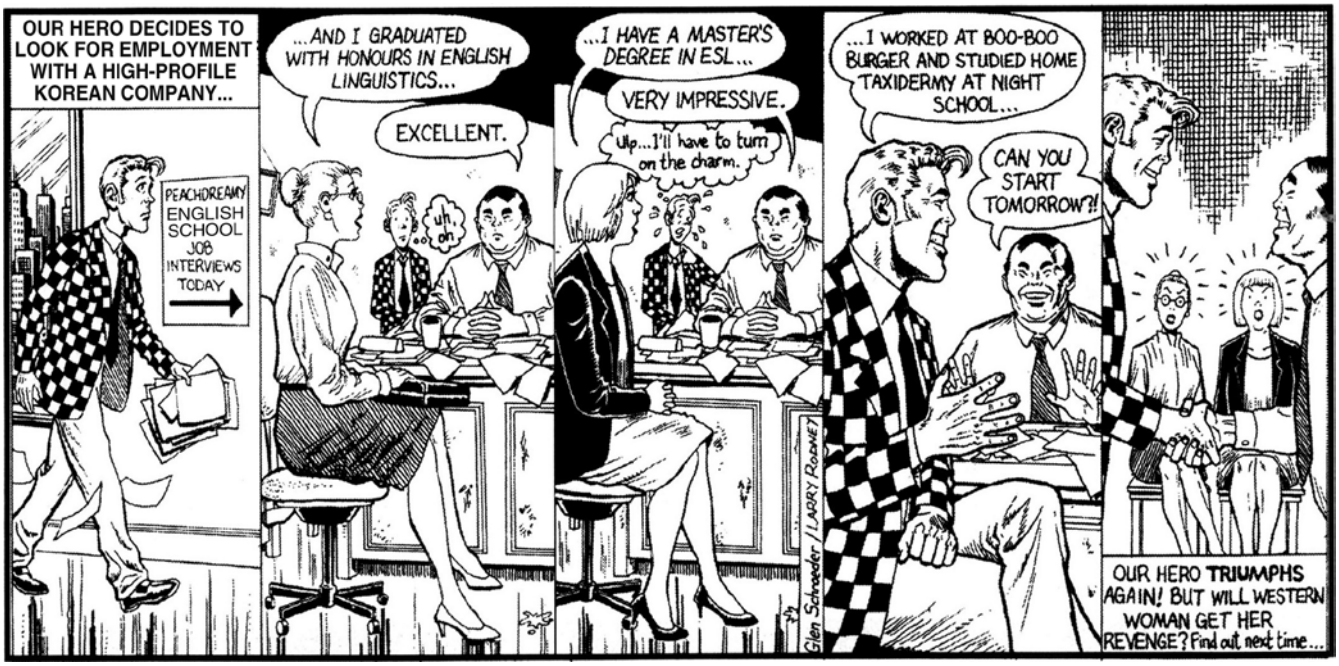


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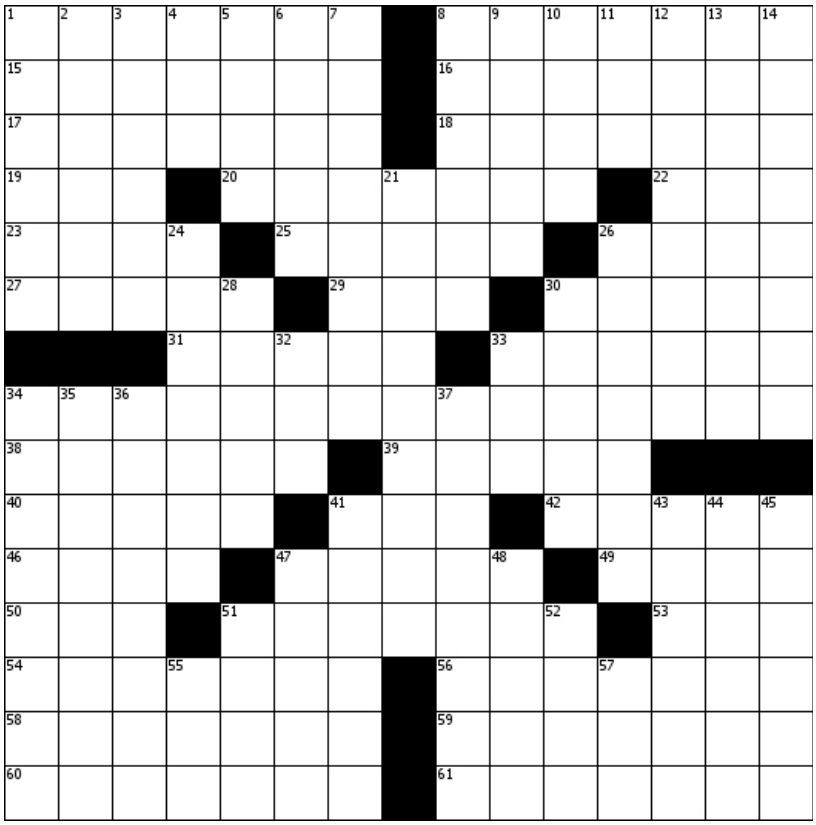


The complete ROKetBook is available at www.ROKetship.com.




Kimchi Confessions - Copyright Patrick Graham 2012

# Crossword



## Across

1. Casino VIP
8. Bombards
15. Play the sycophant
16. Vintage
17. Preschooler
18. British tradition
19. Sweetie
20. It may go right to the top
22. Smash __
23. Didn't just pass
25. Social Security reform, e.g.
26. Bluster
27. Tough synthetic
29. Heart rendering, briefly
30. Quit bothering
31. Bush or Kerry
33. Not as weighty
34. Greenhorns
38. Star seekers
39. Quiet more squeaks
40. Hooded "South Park" kid
41. S.A. country that borders Central America
42. Shuts up completely
46. Writer Wiesel
47. Spread rumors
49. Layover
50. Goof indicator
51. Hearty pastry
53. It can turn up a plot
54. Creature comfort
56. Routine staple
58. Berated
59. Given an alias
60. Prince William, for one
61. "Antigone," e.g.

## Down

1. Pashto speaker of Pakistan or Afghanistan
2. Opposite of sheer genius
3. Surreptitious route
4. Noted globetrotting journalist
5. Solemn declaration
6. Condescend
7. Get comfortable
8. Nostalgic
9. Move stealthily
10. Prudent
11. Hockey stick wood
12. "You don't say!"
13. Ignore the alarm
14. Breaks up
21. Cold-water catch
24. Senior woman
26. Gets to the bottom of?
28. Foul
30. "Perelandra" author
32. Fleur-de-__
33. Folk singer Kottke
34. Popular fund raiser
35. Competition restriction, perhaps
36. Treat well
37. High landing site, usually
41. Drawer?
43. In familiar territory
44. Appeared
45. Prompt
47. Aquarium denizen also called a fighting fish
48. One covering a home
51. Knees are seen under one
52. Dame from down under
55. "Delta of Venus" author
57. Binge

# Sudoku

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 6 | 5 | | 8 | | | | |
| 8 | | | 9 | | 1 | 2 | | |
| | | | 3 | 5 | | 4 | | 8 |
| 6 | 2 | 8 | | | | 3 | | |
| | | 7 | | | | 6 | 9 | |
| | | | | 2 | 4 | | | |
| | | | | | 8 | | 3 | 7 |
| 3 | | | | | 7 | 5 | | |
| | | | | 6 | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | | | | | 9 | | 2 | |
| 4 | 9 | | | 2 | | 7 | | 3 |
| | | | | | 8 | 5 | | |
| | 4 | 1 | | | 2 | | | |
| | | | 9 | | | 1 | 3 | 6 |
| | | | 6 | | 5 | | 4 | |
| 8 | 3 | | | | | | 1 | 5 |
| | | 4 | | | | | | |
| 2 | | | | | 7 | | 9 | |

### HOW TO PLAY

Sudoku requires no calculation or arithmetic skills. It is essentially a game of placing numbers in squares, using very simple rules of logic and deduction.

### OBJECTIVE

The objective of the game is to fill all the blank squares with the correct numbers. There are three very simple constraints to follow. In a 9 by 9 square Sudoku game:

- Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order.
- Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order.
- Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9.

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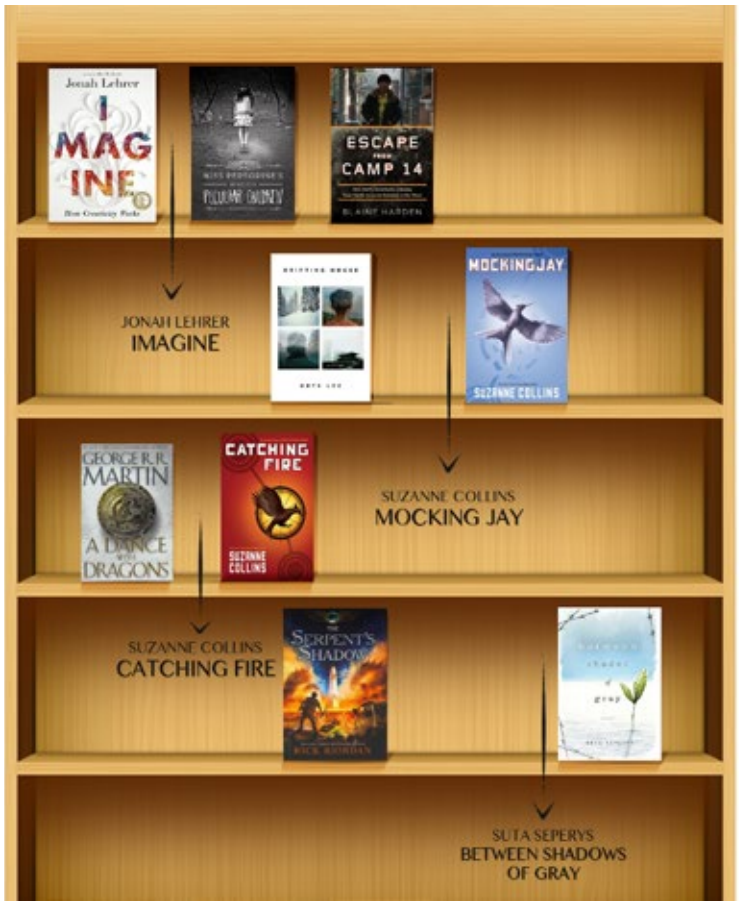
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## Aries

Any and all sorts of celebrations, parties and entertainments appeal to you. In fact, you need them. In between, concentrate on specific artistic activities, for this is a powerful period of inventiveness, proficiency, and skill that doesn't occur often. Several childhood issues may arise. Welcome and tend to them with enduring grace.

## Taurus

Conversations and encounters with others will have profound effects upon your mind -- so much so that you will look deep within yourself and consider and possibly change your points of view. Your ways of thinking will shift, becoming more inclusive, more intelligent and deeply spiritual. Allow no holds to be placed upon you.

## Gemini

Is your day filled with running errands, chatting ceaselessly, wishing you could take short trips for pleasure only, and providing information and social news to all your networks? Is that humming I hear from you? The hum of connecting this to that, him to her, it to them: Your thoughts are scattered everywhere.

## Cancer

Money matters on your mind feel almost overwhelming. Perhaps they have to do also with children, their needs responsibilities, and growth. Know that there is always enough, that you will always have financial resources, and that it's through your gifts of leadership (and intuition) adequate funds will always arrive.

## Leo

Whenever your usual feelings of power arise, and they will more so now, temper them with empathy and compassion. This assists you in being a true leader. With intimates, realize you are more vulnerable, have strong emotions you may not share, and could end up arguing instead of being objective. A crisis may occur.

## Virgo

Important spiritual and psychological breakthroughs may take place but only if the past is released. This includes all feelings of mistakes and misfortunes that you think befell you. In causal reality everything is simply experience so that we can learn discernment and discrimination within all levels of life

## Libra

Be careful not to argue with friends and your various groups. If differences are becoming greater, it may be time to assess the value of these interactions. Perhaps there is no longer a sharing or like-mindedness. Yes, you desire stability, especially with your social groups. But it may be time for a new, non-conforming direction.

## Scorpio

This will be a month with romantic and idealistic tendencies. The sentimental side seems to be more bright and optimistic than the sexual one. Eroticism seems to be too complicated and difficult to define significance. If you want to enjoy fulfillment this month, cut down on psychological analysis and on splitting hairs and enjoy.

## Sagittarius

For some reason you feel your opinions and beliefs are being challenged and don't know why. This could manifest either within or from without. Whatever the direction, some things need changing concerning your philosophy and goals. You need to travel a bit more, take measures that expand your vision.

## Capricorn

Stress, a lot of stress. It'd be better if you slowed down a bit and make more time for rest and relaxation. You'll take a lot of pressure, worry a lot and even if you display the image of a self-confident person, you might experience anxiety episodes. You'll prove great determination in pursuing your objectives, and the objectives are not small.

## Aquarius

Your most valuable asset is your intuition which you may not be aware of having. But you surely do. It helps you figure the best ways to respond to issues. It gives you insight into others' agendas and feelings, needs and expectations. Be confident at all times that only you know what's best for you. With others, stand back a bit.

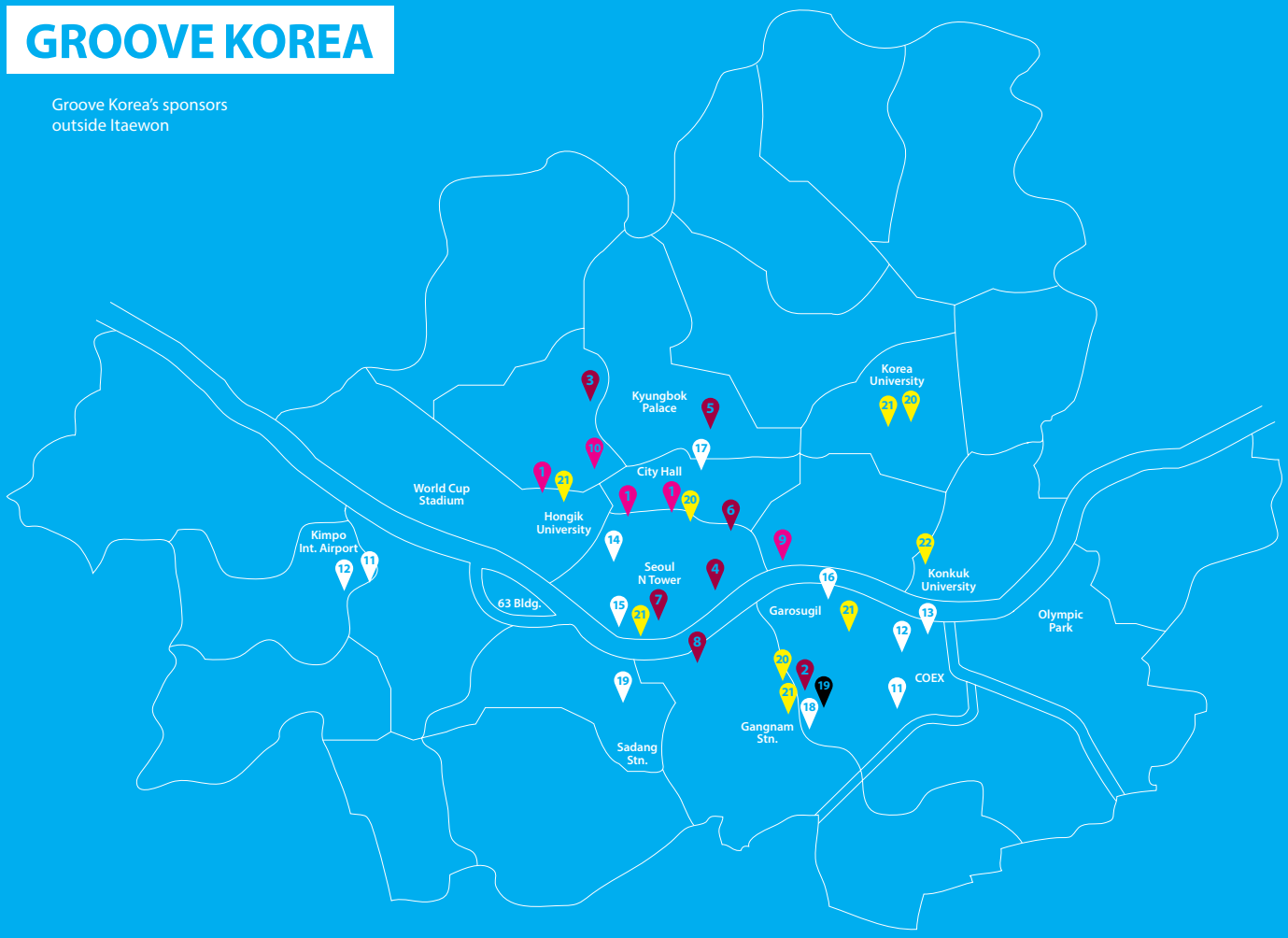
## Pisces

You're quite busy, moreso than expected. This creates enhanced decision-making and organization. You'll need to continually re-evaluate priorities. Don't ignore proper diet and daily exercise. Your mind needs protein to think so sharply and your body needs exercise to maintain the rigors of excess work.



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- Cup & Bowl
- Don Valley
- Flying Pan
- Gecko's Garden
- Gecko's Terrace
- Gobble n' Go
- Healing Hands
- Hollywood Grill
- Hillside
- Holy Chow
- International Clinic
- Itaewon Global Center Village
- La Bocca
- La Cigale Montmartre
- Loco Loca
- Meili's Deli
- Moghul
- My Thai
- Nashville
- Neal's Yard
- Old Stompers
- Pattaya
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- Zelen

### HBC, Kyungridab & Yongsan-gu

- Buddha's Belly
- Chakraa
- Chili Chili Tacos
- Craftworks
- Green Banana
- HBC Gogitjib
- Hillside Pub
- Hwang Mi Seo foot care
- Istanbul
- Itaewon Animal Hospital
- Jacoby's
- Jamba Juice
- Latte King
- Lazy Sue
- Le Vert
- Naked Grill
- Phillies
- Phillies Steak
- Res2Go
- Standing Coffee
- TG Brunch
- Thunder Burger
- Yongsan Recycle Center
- Yoons' Oriental Clinic
- Café JeJe

### Gangnam, Sinsa & Chungdam areas

- AOC
- Baram plastic surgery
- Big Rock
- California Pizza Kitchen
- CK Chiropractic
- Dos Tacos
- Dublin Irish Pub
- Dunhill
- Hushu dental & skin clinic
- Jaseng Oriental Hospital
- Nova Skin Clinic
- Once in a blue moon
- Smart Dental Clinic
- TengTeng Skin Clinic
- Yonsei Mi Dental Clinic

### Konkuk University

- Café 4B
- Monomo

### Hongdae & Sinchon

- aA museum café
- Agio
- Beer O'clock
- Castle Praha
- Dos Tacos
- Hair & Joy
- Mike's Cabin
- On The Border
- Tin Pan
- Yonsei Mi Dental Clinic
- Zen Art Center

## BUNDANG & YONGIN

- Underground
- Batman bar
- Travelers

## BUSAN

- Basement
- Breeze Bum's
- Fuzzy Navel (Haeundae)
- Kino Eye (Daeyeon-dong)
- Mojo (Jangjeon-dong)
- Rock N Roll (Bujeon-dong)
- Taco Family (Jangjeon-dong)
- The SKOOL (Woo-dong)
- Wolfhound (Haeundae)

## DAEGU

- Dijon
- The Holy Grill

## INCHEON

- Fog City International Cafe

## DAEJEON

- Cantina

## ILSAN

- Big Bread
- Yonsei Joshua Clinic

## JEONJU

- Jeonju English Center

## JEJU

- Zapata's (Jeju city)
- Jeju tourism offices

## CHUNGJU

- Road King

## FRANCHISES

- Dos Tacos
- Jamba Juice
- California Pizza Kitchen
- HBC Gogitjib
- Breeze Bum's
- Wolfhound
- Cold Stone Creamery
- Quiznos

## GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

- Incheon International Air Ports
- Kimpo Airports
- Korea Tourism Organization
- Seoul City Hall
- Daegu City Hall
- Gangnam-gu Tourism Office
- Seoul Global Center
- TBS eFM station

## HOTELS

- Lotte Hotel Seoul
- Lotte Hotel Busan
- Grand Hilton
- Novotel Ambassador Gangnam
- Westin Chosun Hotel
- Grand Hyatt Hotel Seoul
- Somerset Palace Seoul
- JW Marriott Hotel Seoul
- Astoria Hotel (Myung-dong)
- Hamilton Hotel
- Novotel Ambassador Busan
- The Ritz-Carlton Seoul
- Millennium Hilton
- Oakwood Premier Coex Center
- Han Suites Serviced Residences
- Hyatt Regency Incheon
- The MVL (Yeosu)
- Hotel Inter-Bulgo (Daegu)
- Sea Cloud Hotel Busan
- InterContinental Alpensia Resort (Pyeongchang)

## HOSPITALS & HEALTH CLINICS

- Lee Moon Won Oriental Clinic (Chungdam-dong)
- Seoul National Univ. Gangnam Health Center (Yeoksam-dong)
- Gangnam Severance Hospital (Dogok-dong)
- Wooridul Spine Hospital (Chungdam-dong)
- MizMedi Women's Hospital (Daechi-dong)
- Samsung Medical Center (Ilwon-dong)
- NOVA Skin Clinic (Gangnam stn)
- Oracle Skin Clinic (Gangnam stn)
- UPennIvy Dental Clinic (Ichon-dong)
- ESARANG Dental Clinic (Gongduk-dong)
- Yein Dental Clinic (City Hall)
- A Plus Dental (Shinsa-dong)
- TUFT Denatal (Samsung-dong)
- TengTeng Skin Clinic (Shinsa-dong)
- CK Chiropractic (Nonhyeon-dong)
- Yonsei Mi Dental Clinic (Hongdae & Shinsa-dong)
- Healing Hands (Itaewon)

## US ARMY BASES

- Yongsan Garrison
- Pyeongtaek Camp Humphreys
- Osan AB
- Chinhae Naval Base
- Daegu Camp Walker


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# SUPER!SONIC

## MUSIC IN THE CITY
## OLYMPIC PARK

**08.14(Tue)**

THE SMASHING PUMPKINS

SOULWAX

THE BASEMENT JAXX (DJ SET)

GYMCLASSHEROES

장기하와 얼굴들

IDIOTAPE GLENCHECK

**08.15(Wed)**

NewOrder

TEARS FOR FEARS

GOTYE

FOSTERTHEPEOPLE

자우림 THE VACCINES

국카스텐

구남라여라이덩스넬라

**JACK ROCKS STAGE**

용감한 녀석들(Special Guest) – 갤럭시 익스프레스 – 내귀에 도청장치 – 와이낫
로맨틱펀치 – 아트오브파티스 – 은하연합 – 24Hours – 고고보이스 – 자보아일랜드 – MDS

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